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SHIP #2



MAP OF LEYDEN

IN

FALL TOWN

ORIGINATED BY M.A. & W.T.A.
DRAWN BY D.F. WILLIAMS

-1959-



George Washington Statue at West Point
By Henry Kirke Brown of Leyden

HISTORY OF LEYDEN MASSACHUSETTS

1676 — 1959



By

William Tyler Arms

* * *

With the Collaboration
of
Masha E. Arms

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PREFACE

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This book attempts a new approach in local history writing. Its purpose is to create a readable tale by weaving a colorful local story into a background of basic American history.

We have endeavored, for instance, to draw the local picture 200 years ago at the time of the British capture of Fortress Quebec, when Leyden, then a howling wilderness, began to open up. Into this picture, we introduce, one by one, the Leyden Mayflower descendants—the Bradfords, Brewsters, Fullers, Howlands—who made homes for themselves in the Leyden hills. We tell, too, of Leyden's Dutch ties with colorful Anneke Jans, famous runaway princess of the House of Orange. Reflecting major events in the developing country, the story of Leyden then is unfolded.

Though special emphasis is given Leyden's Pilgrim forebears and outstanding men and women, the history also covers Leyden's natural history, including the rocks, ferns, wild flowers and birds of the area. The Leyden "Church Woods" plan is singled out as the town's particular contribution to the world of nature.

As in most New England towns, local land division was most complex, and since Leyden covered sections of three different townships, the division into lots was extremely complicated. Intricacies of the partition of Leyden land are fully explained, with emphasis on the 1741 Hampshire-Massachusetts survey. This line cut off valuable acreage from Leyden's northern border and resulted in the compensating "Florida Grant" on storied Mohawk Trail—some 40 miles distant!

To avoid confusion, the township as a whole is designated as "Fall Town" up to the year 1784. After this date, the name Bernardston is used to designate the eastern part of the grant; Leyden to designate the western part. Originally the entire area was known as Fall Fight Town, but with the 1784 division, two separate towns were formed. Up to and including the year 1779, East Colrain also constituted part of Fall Fight Town.

In the course of compiling even a modest town history, the work of gathering the facts is long and tedious. This book involved the reading of over 3,000 pages of Leyden and Bernardston records along with many county and state documents. While most local archives were found complete, the absence of the Old Deerfield minutes of meetings which vanished mys-

teriously about 1950, proved a handicap, as early Fall Town meetings were held in Deerfield taverns.

Among the dozens of reference books consulted, particularly helpful Leyden data was found in Sheldon's History of Deerfield; Kellogg's History of Bernardston; Montgomery's Facts of American History; Temple's History of Northfield; Thompson's History of Greenfield; Willard's History of Greenfield; the Franklin Gazette; "Bells of Leiden Sing" by Catherine Coblentz; History of Montague; the Cunnabell, Brown, Newcomb and Mowry genealogies. Special maps and valuable statistical data were furnished from the Massachusetts State Archives.

The cooperation of the Greenfield Recorder-Gazette has been most helpful in publicizing the history and in encouraging united community efforts which have helped complete this book.

In the work of preparing this volume for Leyden's Sesquicentennial, particular credit should be given the people of Leyden for their generous support and encouragement. Mr. and Mrs. John H. Newcomb, Harold V. Campbell, Edith M. Howes and the Thomas List family have contributed particularly valuable material for the book. Others who have given substantial support, directly or indirectly, include the late Lucy Cutler Kellogg and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin W. Dyer, Jr. of Bernardston; Hester C. McKeage and A. N. Spruyt of Greenfield; Lucy Pratt of Wellesley Hills; and the late Eleanor M. Arms of Old Deerfield.

We also wish to thank Yankee Magazine for permission to reprint the Bunker Hill gun-legend story and the pioneer maple sugar tale; and Jane A. Kelly for a quotation from her poem, "Eight O'Clock at Night on Deerfield Street." Darwin D. Hine's poem, "Rain on My Old Tin Hat," is a reprint from the Montpelier Evening Argus.

Acknowledgments also are due the Louisiana State University, West Point Museum, the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the American Association for State and Local History.

W. T. A.
Leyden, Massachusetts
June 10th 1959

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Introduction To Leyden

The Town of Leyden, Massachusetts, named for the Pilgrim sanctuary in Leyden, Holland, lies within a southeasterly spur of the Green Mountains and from its highest hills may be seen over thirty-five mountain peaks rising in Vermont, New Hampshire, the Berkshires, the Holyoke Range and in the foothills of the White Mountains. In the western part of Leyden—from Gates Hill—a splendid view of the Green Mountains and summits of the Taconic Range unfold. From the eastern slopes of the town one of the finest panoramas in New England spreads far and away in undulating ridges toward the sea, and it is readily understood why the pioneer settlers named one of Leyden's early highways—Eden Trail. From the summit of this trail in early May and August the sun rises, like a golden torch, directly over the peak of famed Monadnock Mountain.

In the annals of history, Leyden has much to its credit. Through her rocky woods, the Deerfield captives, one hundred and fifty strong, trekked with their French and Indian captors on a memorable March day in 1704. Here it was the first white child born in Vermont territory came to settle; and here the mother of "Milwaukee Harriet" was reared. It was in these hills that the guns at Bunker Hill were heard, and Minute Men, some of whom had seen service in the French and Indian wars, dropped their tools of the field to shoulder muskets under captains of the Minute Man companies. Following the Revolution, rebel "Yorkers," were driven pell-mell into Leyden by lusty followers of Vermont's great patriot, Ethan Allen. Into the Leyden sanctuary, too, came the hard-pressed men who had fought under Daniel Shays. From these hills men went forth to battle the British foe a second time. Down through the years, in fact, Leyden has been represented in all the major battles of the nation.

Nor is Leyden wanting in colorful and prominent citizens. Into the sanctuary of the Leyden hills came Jason Parmenter, famed Shays' follower, saved from an unjust sentence by a last-minute reprieve. William Dorril, one-time fighter under Burgoyne, founded in Leyden one of the strangest religious sects of early American times. From the western limits of the town emerged John L. Riddell, outstanding inventor and pioneer in theoretical space travel—the man who foresaw 20th Century rockets to the moon, Venus and Mars.

Perhaps most famous of all Leyden's men was Henry Kirke Brown, American sculptor and artist. Today, Brown's huge statues of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln stand firmly in the public parks of New York, West Point and in the nation's Capital.

Through her distinguished service in the nursing field, the sculptor's niece, Ellen L. Brown, now in her 96th year, has added her name to the roster of Leyden's outstanding citizens. Maude Miner Hadden, world peace leader, also is a native of Leyden.

The pioneer American names of Brewster, Coolidge, Franklin and Bradford also enter into Leyden's history, as does the name of Anneke Janse, runaway Dutch princess, closely allied with Leyden's namesake town in Holland. As the history unfolds, her story with the stories of Leyden's other notables will be fully developed.

Location: Leyden is located in Franklin County, ten miles west of the Connecticut River. Its northern boundary is contiguous with the State of Vermont; its western bounds follow the course of the Green River; southward lies the industrial town of Greenfield; and on the east is the parent town of Bernardston. Leyden is 107 miles northwest of Boston, and 60 miles east of Albany via the famous Mohawk Trail. The average distance from the north to the south boundary of the town is five miles; the length of the south line is one mile, and of the north line, three miles. The shape of the town, viewed inversely, is similar to that of the State of Vermont.

Topography: Leyden is a town of Silurian-age hills, with narrow, fertile valleys interspersed. One historian wrote that, unlike Rome, Leyden was founded, not on seven, but on twenty-seven hills! The highest of these points is Frizzell Hill, 1315 feet above sea level; the lowest point in town is only 230 feet elevation. This is near the spot on Green River where Eunice Williams, a Deerfield captive of 1704, was cruelly slain while en route to Canada.

Geography: Beginning at the eastern approaches to the town, at a point on the Leyden map marked "Couch Brook," between the Cunnabell and Burk Forts, a road follows the brook westward to the top of Frizzell Hill. West of this hill is Beaver Meadow which is surrounded on three sides by protecting hills. This valley, site of the first Leyden settlement, is fed by a large brook which flows into Shattuck's millstream. Another brook has its source atop Frizzell Hill. Its water is a reddish

color at the source, due to iron deposits nearby; but the stream clears as its waters tumble downhill and many waterfalls of exquisite beauty are formed on smooth argillite ledges. Near the old Eden Trail, at the southeast approaches to Leyden, a number of fine trout streams flow in areas so remote that one waterfall, reported by Harold S. Pratt to be 25 to 30 feet in height, has been located by only half a dozen persons. The site is at the headwaters of Mill Brook, famous as the route of the night-marching "Falls Fight" men of 1676—a story to be recounted later.

Ball Mountain, nearly 1250 feet above sea level, commands a view of the Connecticut Valley as far south as Mount Holyoke. Sheldon's Hill lies northwest of Ball Mountain, and about two miles farther north is Daniel's Peak, named for Leyden's first white child.

Directly south of Beaver Meadow, divided from it by a rocky hillock, is an area which was known in olden times as "The Meadow." This flat land runs southward into "Buddington Valley," named for Leyden's legendary "Captain Kidd" settler. Southeastward is the famous Leyden Glen to be described in a later chapter.

A second range of hills parallels the Frizzell Hill range on the west, and it is on its summit that the present Leyden Center is situated. Still another range, farther west is the site of the Ethan Allen Highway which tied Leyden with Vermont. The crest of this range was the spot where the first Church and Tavern stood. Between ranges two and three lies colorful Brandy Brook.

Beyond range three, the land dips down to a sizable swampy area known as Peleg's Bog. Just west of this, the land slopes to evergreen-shaded Green River which is fed by such Leyden brooks as Thorn's, West Hollow, Hebard's (named for Leyden's early pastor) and Kateley's. The extreme northwest corner of the township consists of rocky upland country. Here, valuable metal ores have been mined.

Leyden, like many New England pioneer towns, was favored with high, wooded hills, fertile valleys and an abundant supply of pure water. This type of terrain was ideally suited to the early settlers who, with the Indian war whoop still ringing in their ears, took to the highest hills after the close of the French and Indian wars. Until 1800, in fact, the population of hill towns

outstripped that of towns more favorably located along the frontier lowlands.

Early Background History: Before taking up the actual story of Leyden, we will review briefly the story of the Pilgrims and their connection with the Dutch city for which Leyden, Massachusetts was named.

It may be remembered that in 1608, a small group of English Protestants, finding they could have no peace in the British Isles because of religious persecution, fled to Holland where they hoped to find freedom of worship. The Dutch had only a few years before thrown off the Spanish yoke and welcomed those who sought freedom from tyrannical rule.

The Pilgrims settled in the Dutch university town of Leiden and there remained with their families until 1620 when because of impending war and a desire to live in an English colony, they decided to venture westward. Toward the end of July, therefore, they set sail in the *Speedwell* for Southampton, England where the *Mayflower* waited to transport them across the sea to America. William Bradford, a *Mayflower* passenger whose descendants settled in the Leyden of America, wrote of the Holland leave-taking:

"So they left that goodly and pleasant city which had been their resting-place near 12 years . . . for they knew that they were Pilgrims and looked not much on comforting things; but lifted up their eyes to the Heavens—their dearest Country . . ."

On September 16, 1620 the *Mayflower* sailed from Plymouth, England on her memorable voyage with the Reverend John Robinson, pastor of the Leiden Pilgrim flock. Nearly three months later, on a dreary December day, the Leiden Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. Among them were two men—William Bradford and William Brewster—whose descendants helped build the first Leyden of America.

Three hundred and thirty-seven years after the arrival of *Mayflower* I in Plymouth, Massachusetts, the people of Leyden sent greetings to *Mayflower* II in Plymouth Bay. The message came "from the only community in America settled by freedom-loving *Mayflower* I descendants and named for the Old World Pilgrim sanctuary in Leiden, Holland."

Other Leydens in the United States: Though Leyden, Massachusetts, was the first town so-named in America, other "Ley-

dens," founded years later, are noted on the map. Port Leyden, New York was founded March 10, 1797—many years after the Bay State Leyden had been established. Though the name of New York's Leyden was given by Holland Land Company officials, its early settlers came from Connecticut and Massachusetts. The Reverend John Taylor of Deerfield, while on a missionary tour through the Empire State in 1802 records: "Rode to Leyden, to Boon's Black River Settlement . . . where there are about 50 families."

The midwest later produced several "Leydens" — one in Wisconsin, one in Illinois and one in North Dakota. As far as we can determine, the North Dakota Leyden, named in the late 19th Century by officials of the Grand Union Railway, is the only western Leyden to survive.

Leyden Street in Plymouth, Massachusetts is perhaps one of the most appropriate Leyden "namesakes" in America.

CHAPTER I

Early History of Leyden

The actual story of Leyden, Massachusetts begins with the march of the "Falls Fight" men against a huge encampment of Indian warriors at Peskeomskut on the Connecticut River near the present town of Turners Falls. It was mid-May in 1676, near the conclusion of King Philip's War, when this handful of colonists under the leadership of Captain William Turner of Boston risked all in an attempt to stem the Indian plans of an attack on the white settlements. During the previous year, the villages of Deerfield and Northfield had been completely wiped out, and "the flower of Essex," those stalwart fighters from eastern Massachusetts, had been annihilated in an Indian ambush at a spot in Deerfield now known as Bloody Brook.

Seeing their best hunting grounds and corn fields taken over by white men, the Indians were determined to wipe out, once and for all, the possibility of further incursions into territory they considered their rightful property. But the white men were just as determined to retain a foothold in New England. So it was that one hundred and forty-five picked men set out from Hatfield, Massachusetts on a May evening in 1676, and after a hazardous trek through the woods, to the accompaniment of rain and lightning, they reached the Indian river encampment. Here, at dawn, they surprised the sleeping braves, and as a result the Indians' power to strike en masse was broken for years to come.

For his part in this "Falls Fight," each colonial soldier was awarded a share in what was to be known later as the Fall Town Grant. In the days to come, Bernardston became the eastern, and Leyden the western portion of that grant.

Among the Falls Fight soldiers, the following either settled or had descendants who settled in Leyden: Hope Atherton of Deerfield; Nathaniel Alexander of Northampton; William Armes of Deerfield; Timothy Baker of Northampton; Preserved Clapp of Northampton; Japhet Chapin of Springfield; Samuel Crow of Hadley; Joseph Crowfoot of Wethersfield; William Clark of Lebanon, Connecticut; Samuel Cunnabell of Boston; Samuel Field of Deerfield; Eleazer Hawks of Hadley; Joseph Fuller of Newton; Samuel Hunt of Tewksbury; William James of Lebanon;

John Ingram of Hadley; Francis Keet of Northampton; John Lee of Westfield; John Lyman of Northampton; Henry Rogers of Springfield; William Smead of Northampton; Samuel Stebbins of Deerfield; Thomas Wells of Hadley and Deerfield.

1734: First Petition for Land Grant in Fall Town. Because of unsettled times, constant warfare, and the fear of Indians, it was not till 1734 that the following request was made to the General Court in Boston:

"A petition of Samuel Hunt of Billerica for himself and other survivors of the officers and soldiers that belonged to the company of Captain Turner . . . showing that the said company in 1676 engaged the Indian enemy at a place above Deerfield, and destroyed about 300 of them, and therefore praying that this Court would grant them a tract of Land above Deerfield suitable to make a Township."

On November 28, 1734, the House of Representatives replied to this petition by voting "that the prayer thereof be so far granted, as that the petitioners have leave by a surveyor and chainmen upon oath to lay out a Township of the contents of six square miles to the Northward of the Town of Deerfield, in the unappropriated lands of the province of Massachusetts, and retain a plat thereof to this Court for confirmation within 12 months, and that said Township is granted the Petitioners and such other officers and soldiers that were in said fight above Deerfield, commonly called the Falls Fight; and to the descendants of any of the officers and soldiers that were in said fight and are deceased . . . provided the grantees do within four years settle 60 families in said township, and have each of them a house 18 feet square, and five acres of land brought to English grass or broke up by ploughing; and also build a convenient Meetinghouse and settle a learned Orthodox Minister among them, lay out a house lot for the first settled Minister and another for the Ministry, each of which is to draw a 70th part of said township; also a lot for the School of 100 acres, the remainder to be divided into equal parts among those that are admitted . . . "

First Proprietors' Meetings: On Christmas Eve, in the year 1735, Captain Thomas Wells, a leading citizen of Deerfield and one who had seen service as a dragoon in the French and Indian wars, was directed by the General Court to notify the grantees of Falls Fight Town to appear "at some town in the County of Hampshire . . . to chuse a Moderator and Clerk and to

agree upon effectual methods for the laying out and fulfilling of their grant, and to call meetings for the future."

Though the grantees lived in twenty-one different Massachusetts townships and thirteen in Connecticut, Captain Wells carried out his commission promptly and the Grantees were soon notified of the first proprietors' meeting to be held January 27, 1736 at the home of Benjamin Stebbins in the then county seat at Northampton.

At this meeting, Thomas Wells, Samuel Field and Jonathan Hoit of Deerfield were elected to "examine ye place agreeable to ye act of ye Genll Asembly where ye Town Shall Ly and then They by viewing, obtain satisfaction where to lay sd Town, then to Gett itt laid out by a Surveyor and chainmen upon oath." It might be noted here that the initial grant to be surveyed included lands covering the present town of Bernardston, part of Leyden and a narrow strip over the "Vermont" line where the official boundary was not established till 1741.

The second proprietors' meeting was held October 6th and all were warned to come prepared to "Pay Ye First Charge For Laying out Sd Township and to consider a petition for an additional grant," necessitated by the large number of proprietors. This additional grant was in Boston Township #2 and lay within Coleraine Township then being settled by Scotch-Irish from Northern Ireland.

At the second proprietors' meeting, it was decided that part of the original grant be laid out in 50-acre house lots and that meadow lands should be laid out separately with each lot. These were to be known as First and Second Division lots, respectively. No homes were to be laid out on streams where mills might be erected. Such sites were reserved for public use. An unusually fair system of land distribution was adopted whereby the Committee in charge was requested to note in all instances the quality of land drawn. Whenever a man drew inferior lots, they were to be offset by an additional grant, so all might be as equal as possible. A sum of three pounds was charged each proprietor for admittance to the lot drawing.

1737: By May 4th, exactly 97 men had proved their just claims to proprietorship in Fall Town, so it was decided the lands should be divided into 100 lots — 97 proprietary and 3 public lots for church, minister and school. Showing an advanced sense of conservation, it also was voted at the May

meeting "to preserve wood and timber, and prosecute those who committed any waste thereof."

The list of 97 proprietors represented men from the Massachusetts towns of Deerfield, Dorchester, Springfield, Hadley, Hatfield, Malden, Boston, Roxbury, Concord, Northampton, Westfield, Charlestown, Almsbury, Swansey, Newton and Tewksbury. Connecticut towns represented were: Middleton, Watertown, Wethersfield, Colchester, Lebanon, Enfield, Wallingford, Hadam, Stamford, Stafford, Windham, Glastonbury, Newbury, "Elbows," Durham, Westford and New Haven. Long Island also was represented.

At the first drawing on May 4th, Samuel Cunnabell, later a pioneer in the maple sugar industry, drew his frontier lot, and by the next day, 60 settling proprietors had agreed to pay settling bonds, build suitable houses and "bring their land up to ploughing and mowing."

Meetings now followed thick and fast. On October 12th it was voted to lay out 5-acre "Meadow Lands;" provision was made for a saw and grist mill; and it was voted to "allow Proprietors to cut wood and timber from undivided lands in the Township provided there was no "stripping or waste." On October 18, the meadow lots were drawn, each proprietor paying 10 shillings a throw. At this drawing, Hezekiah Newcomb of Lebanon, Connecticut, drew meadow lot 98 in Beaver Meadow. Later tenanted by his son, Silas, this proved to be the first "settled" lot in the East Leyden area.

The Year 1738: By October 19, all the first and second division lots had been drawn. The 97 proprietors of the entire Fall Town district were divided into two categories: settlers and non-settlers.

The following list, made up from Franklin County Registry records includes only those first division lots which lay in East Leyden. The original owner of each lot is listed first; other known owners, down to those of today, follow.

Lot numbers are not consecutive because many of the plots were laid out in eastern Fall Town. We do not pretend to list all the lot owners, only those which have been verified. An elipsis (three dots) is used to indicate unknowns. The initials "B.M." following lot numbers stand for Beaver Meadow; "G.B." stands for Glen Brook area; and "F.H." stands for the entire East Hill area, originally known as Frizzell Hill. "H.L." stands for House Lot; "OHL" stands for old house lot; "P." for pasture land.

Lot 50 (FH-P) Samuel Crow; John Perry; Calvin Howland . . . C. W. Severance . . . Arthur Howes

Lot 51 (FH-HL) Benj. Rugg; Shem Chapin; John Perry; Gersham Orvis; Abel Perry; Ebenezer Martindale; Sam Dimick; Peter Tyler; Rufus Frizzell . . . Arthur Howes

Lot 52 (FH-P) Wm. Jones; Esther Williams; Hezekiah Newcomb . . . Donald Herron

Lot 53 (FH-P) Nath'l Sutliff; Peter Tyler; Hezekiah Newcomb

Lot 54 (FH-HL) Samuel Hunt; Oliver Brewster; Samuel Guild; Reuben Frizzell; Ezra Shattuck; Samuel Hastings; Newton Carson . . . Henry Campbell; Louis Black

Lot 56 (FH-HL) Capt. Preserved Clapp; Timothy Bascom; Gersham Orvis; Hezekiah Newcomb . . . George Smith; Donald Herron . . . William Arms

Lot 57 (FH-HL) Sam'l Blanchard; Israel Bagg; David Potter; . . . Alfred Black . . . David Baker

Lot 58 (FH-HL) Thomas Alvord; Gersham Orvis; Benjamin Grinnel . . . Harold Pratt; Donald Herron; Harry Garr

Lot 59 (FH-HL) John Baker; Gersham Orvis; Edward Nelson; Robert Strange; William Croutworst

Lot 60 (FH-P) The original School lot of Fall Town: leased out; now owned by Arthur Howes & Son

Lot 64 (FH-HL) Ebenezer Smead; John Pressy; Michael Frizzell; Reuben Parmenter; Edward Newton; John Glabach

Lot 72 (FH-HL) John Lee; Ezra Shattuck; Jotham Carpenter . . . Fayette Potter; Roy Hine

Lot 73 (FH-OHL) Thomas French; Nath'l Chamberlain; Michael Frizzell . . . James McDonald

Lot 74 (FH-HL) Joseph Crowfoot; Josiah Griswold; Timothy Bigelow; John Cunnabell; Caleb Willis; Marcus Frizzell . . . James McDonald; Edgar Collis

Lot 75 (FH-P) Joseph Leeds . . . John Glabach

Lot 77 (FH-P) Joseph Kellogg; Reuben Shattuck; Michael Frizzell . . . John Glabach

Lot 78 (GB-HL) William Dickinson; Stephen Dorril . . . William Campbell . . . James Britton

Lot 79 (KB-HL) Samuel Bedortha; Jonathan White; David Paige . . .

Lot 83 (FH-OHL) Aaron Stebbins; Reuben Parmenter; William Dorril; Ezra Shattuck; Asahel Newton . . . John Glabach

Lot 84 (BM-P) Samuel Pierce; Thos. Goodwin; Selah Chapin

Lot 85 (FH-P) Ministry Lot; John Scott; Wm. Scott . . . Robert Strange . . . William Croutworst

Lot 89 (BM-OHL) John Lyman; Silas Newcomb; Daniel Newcomb . . . Wayne Fisher; Arnold Studer

Lot 91 (BM-OHL) Isaac Burnap; Daniel Chapin (?) . . . Hugh Sloane

Lot 93 (BM-HL) Joseph Fuller . . . Selah Chapin . . . Hugh Sloane

Lot 94 (BM-HL) Aaron Smith; Benj. Thomas; Elisha Burnham . . . Edward Smith

Lot 96 (BM-HL) E. Mattoon; Daniel Chapin . . . Edric Cook

Lot 97 (BM-OHL) Stephen Noble; John Hunt . . . David G. Baker . . .

The above first division lots (with the original meadow lots) represented the best farming lands in eastern Leyden during the formative years. The Leyden map in front of the book shows the approximate area these lots covered—roughly, one half the present area of Leyden Township. These lots were drawn before the Mass-Hampshire survey of 1741, so Lot 97 and others which ran over the line, lost part of their acreage to western Hampshire—later to become the State of Vermont.

Because of unsettled times, the threat of Indians, and wild animals, only four men with lots in Leyden paid the settlers' bond of 100 pounds in 1738. After an uneasy peace of nearly fourteen years, England and France again were sabre-rattling. No one knew when war would flare up once more, and the Indians, spurred on by the French, would again attack every isolated homestead. Though there is no material evidence that the four bondsmen (Thomas French, Joseph Bascom, Ebenezer Smead and Aaron Stebbins) actually braved the Leyden Hills in 1738, brief settlement was possible. For the first definite record of settlement in Leyden we have to wait until the year 1741.

1739—Early Maps: As in most New England towns, early maps and plans were primitive and difficult to read. The oldest known map of the Leyden area, dated 1736, was drawn up in accordance with instructions from the General Court, by surveyor Nathaniel Kellogg. A copy, found in the Franklin Registry, shows very little detail. The Grant is represented in the shape of a trapezium, with the inlets and outlets of Fall River and Glen Brook. The outlet of the latter stream is close to the western boundary of the grant showing that originally the Leyden bound-

ary did not run west of this brook. However, a dotted line, west of the original Grant Line forms a triangle or "Gore" marked 4833 acres. This was doubtless the additional grant in Boston Township #2 for which Thomas Wells petitioned the General Court.

The second map of the Fall Town Grant, drawn up in the Summer of 1739, shows specific First Division house lots which cover, roughly, the eastern section of Leyden south to Leyden Glen. This map makes it clear that the original school lot for the entire township was first located on the west slope of Leyden's highest elevation (Frizzell Hill); and that the ministry lot was originally laid out on a high spot nearby. As in most early New England towns, the first thought was to "head for the highest mountain" where Indian attack was least likely. Apparently Leyden was no exception.

The third early map, a companion piece to the 1739 house lot survey, is a masterpiece of confusion. It is labeled "A Plan of One Hundred Lots of Medoe Lands Laid Out in Faull Town." The lots, like disconnected vertebrae, are arranged on the map without any geographical association, and appear like scattered fragments a child might have cut out for paper dolls. Only the numbers on the irregular segments suggest a plan, and after careful search of old records, one can tie in some of these lots—the choicest land in the town—with specific owners and definite geographic features. From such study it is clear that "Medoe Lot" numbers 96 through 100 lay in the rich intervale lands of Beaver Meadow where Leyden's first bold settler, Silas Newcomb, found sanctuary with his Huguenot wife.

A circumstance doubtless common in most early town drawings, found those who had drawn House Lots in one section of the town, had "Medoe" lands in some other section. Hence, there was, necessarily, much swapping and Yankee "horse-trading" after the drawings.

Proprietors' Meetings in Deerfield: Before launching into the story of Leyden's first settlement, a few notes from the ancient record books will help set the stage. June 13, 1739, a Fall Town Proprietors' Meeting was held in the historic town of Deerfield. It was voted to "lay out roads and build a Meeting House 50 x 40 x 23 between joints" in the Eastern part of Fall Town. The next year, on October 14, it was voted at a Deerfield meeting to "Build a grist mill and Bridge over Fall River, get a preacher and tax each proprietor 22 pounds extra." Next day (Oct. 15th)

it was voted to Meet at the House of Ebenezer Sheldon in Fall Town (the first mention of a dwelling house in the township); and on the 17th it was voted to send a petition for an "additional Gore between Fall Fight Town and Boston Township #2." It was also voted that any timber already cut on undivided lands should be free to any Proprietor who wished to use it.

With roads, a meeting-house, a grist mill and a minister, forming the nucleus of Fall Fight Town, the story can now go forward with an account of the first settlements in the west part of the town. The curtain goes up on the first Leyden of America.

CHAPTER II

First Settlements in the Leyden Hills 1741 — 1759

Though one New England historian states that Leyden's earliest settlers were of the Frizzell and Coolidge families, no records have thus far been found or presented which show that the Frizzells, valiant pioneers though they were, settled in Leyden before 1764. The Coolidges did not arrive in Leyden until 1771, thirty years after the first log cabin settler.

Until now, no one has suggested that there could have been settlements in the Leyden Hills as early as 1741. Yet careful research reveals an official record of the birth of a baby boy in November of that year in those very hills. The child, a direct descendant of Governor William Bradford, was undoubtedly Leyden's first white child. His parents were Silas Bradford Newcomb, of Leyden Pilgrim stock, and Submit Pineo, daughter of a French Huguenot, exiled from France during the great religious upheaval of the 18th Century. The story of the heroic struggle of this pioneer Leyden family is here recorded for the first time.

Silas Newcomb was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, September 2, 1717. He was the son of Hezekiah Newcomb and Jerusha Bradford. Though Hezekiah bought much land in Fall Town, he let his sons, Silas and Peter, settle the claims. Silas was in town on June 20th, 1739 when his signature appears on proprietor's records. It is likely, therefore, that with the help of his brother, Peter, he began clearing his land in Leyden that year.

It was about this time that Silas married Submit Pineo. The famed Reverend Eleazer Wheelock, who later founded Dartmouth College, performed the ceremony. "Soon after the birth of their first child, in the Spring of 1741, Silas and Submit Newcomb removed from Lebanon to Falltown (now Leyden in Franklin County, Mass.) where their second and third children were born." Thus states the family genealogy by John Bearse Newcomb (page 71).

The pioneer road into Leyden which the Newcombs followed is of interest, not only locally, but also to all Americans. This road or scout path was a spur of the well-known Mohawk Trail and ran along the northern fringe of American coloniza-

tion. It was the pioneer road, dividing the vast wilderness of the north from the scattered English settlements on the south, and was a link between Fort Dummer on the Connecticut River and forts on the interior western frontier.

It seems certain that this road which the Newcombs traversed led from the Fall River directly up the Couch Brook, crossed the brook near Peter Newcomb's lot (see map) and wound north and west along the crest of the hills till it dipped down into Beaver Meadow.

Some 300 yards from the mouth of Couch Brook, close to Leyden's eastern gateway, the Newcombs passed the deep historic gorge, most picturesquely described by Major Stephen Webster, Fall Town's unpublished historian:

"In a verrey short distance," he writes, "the Warter falls more than one hundred and fifty feet — its fall is like going down a pair of Stairs & is one of natures Cureyoseteys — the Warter being forced through as it wair, a solad mountain of roks the banks being of solad roks & formed as by the hand of arte & not more than ten or twelve feat wide at top. Over this aStonishing gulf we are told the Indians passed with their Captives after Destroying Deerfield . . . "

Past this historic spot, then, scarcely two score years after the fatal Indian massacre in Deerfield, the Silas and Peter Newcombs wended their way cautiously toward their homes in the wilderness — trail blazers — following a path which only yesterday was alive with the white man's foe.

On an alluvial flat, near the spot where the road turned north and crossed the Couch Brook, under the shadow of Wild Cat Mountain, Peter Newcomb halted with his family. Here, doubtless with his brother's help, he had previously cleared a piece of land and built a log cabin. After a short period of rest, Silas with his wife and year-old baby, set out over the mountain to the home Silas had prepared in Leyden's green meadows.

The original scout path did not follow straight up the brook as the road is laid now, but probably wound over the drumlin hills down into Beaver Meadow. Ever alert for wolves, bear and Indians, Silas and Submit followed this road and soon found themselves in their beautiful valley home. And here it was on November 18, 1741 that Submit Newcomb gave birth to her

second child, Daniel. For him the highest point east of the valley was named Daniel's Peak.

The first Leyden child was doubtless christened by Minister Norton who only a few weeks before had been established as Fall Town's pastor "with 200 pounds advanced for a house and a 'sallery' of 130 pounds for five years."

In order to determine the location of this first Leyden settlement, much time was spent perusing old deeds and maps. The first clue turned up on the 1831 Leyden map drawn up by Representative Hezekiah Newcomb. In the area east of Beaver Meadow atop the highest hill was the appellation "Uncle Daniels Peque." Since Hezekiah Newcomb was a grand nephew of Daniel Newcomb, it seemed conclusive that the mountain had been named for the Beaver Meadow son of Silas Newcomb.

A search of deeds at the Franklin County Registry indicated that the Silas Newcomb lot definitely was located on the west side of Beaver Meadow (near lots 89 in the first and 98 in the second divisions). This was further confirmed by the following, found in the Leyden town records:

" . . . rec'd of the District of Leyden ten shillings, six pence, in full for 26 rods of ground at the northeast corner of my home farm for the purpose of a Burying Ground."
[signed] Dan'l Newcomb

The "Burying Ground" to which reference is made was part of Beaver Meadow Cemetery and by mapping out the section sold by Daniel Newcomb to the town in 1791, it became clear that this lot (the lot on which his father, Silas, settled) was southwest of the present cemetery. The cabin in which Daniel was born stood on rising ground north of the Beaver Meadow school-house. In fact, when excavations were made in the area recently, a crude foundation was discovered near the very spot where Silas Newcomb probably built his home — a spot on the northernmost New England frontier, on the road linking the forts between east and west.

While the paternal ancestors of Silas Newcomb were seafaring men of standing from Kittery, Maine and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, his maternal ancestor was William Bradford, Mayflower Pilgrim from Leiden, Holland and Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. It is very likely, therefore, that Silas Newcomb, a direct descendant of Pilgrim Bradford, named

the hills in which he settled "Leyden" in honor of the low-lying city which had given sanctuary to his forebears. Remembering, too, that Silas' wife's parents were fugitives from persecution in France, the name Leyden had double significance to the pioneer couple.

As early as September 23, 1741, Peter Newcomb, the brother of Silas, is listed in the old town records as the first bridge-builder of the district. Peter, who had settled on the eastern slopes of Leyden's hills, had married Hannah English, of Maryflower name, so his property had "double" Maryflower connections — through both the Bradford and English families. Peter, like Silas, was married by the Reverend Eleazer Wheelock, founder of Dartmouth College, and was the ancestor of many of Leyden's prominent Newcombs.

1742: In February of this year, it is recorded that Silas Newcomb served on a committee with "Chapin, Field, Scott, Chamberlain, Williams and Sheldon" to see about making preliminary plans for "a third division of the land of Fall Town."

As in most New England towns, the system of land division was intricate, and the Fall Town grant was no exception to this rule. It may be remembered that the First Division lots were laid out as early as May, 1737. Shortly after this, in October, lots in the Second Division were chosen. Since there was a great deal of land left over, after the choice 1st and 2nd division selections had been made, the question of a third division soon came up. So it was that after preliminary plans had been made, the Fall Town proprietors, at a March 31st meeting in the Samuel Field tavern in Deerfield, voted that "each man is to have his day to lay out his land where he thinks fit in the undivided lands." The lots to be divided were chosen so each proprietor got 100 acres, in addition to the land he already owned. This new allotment was to be laid out in two "Draughts," 50 acres in each. So all would have a fair drawing, it was ruled that "he that shall Draw the last Draught in the first, shall have the 1st Draft in the second and so the order inverted thro the whole Draft." All lots were to be limited to four lines, but study reveals 16 lines forming some of them! Notices of the lot drawings were to be published in the Boston papers four weeks in advance, and a supervising committee of 15 men from Fall Town and Deerfield, was elected.

Early in October, the first drawing of Third Division lots was made. Lot 10 on the upper Couch Brook fell to Timothy Bascom.

and was later owned by Reuben Frizzell; Lot 2 became the Cunnabell house site; Lot 63 near Beaver Meadow, became the site of the "Hunt" place; Lot 92 became the Cunnabell millsite on lower Couch Brook, and Lot 112 became the property of the pioneer Newcombs. About 40 third division lots were drawn in the old Leyden area. Three more lot drawings were to follow in Leyden — a record of intricacy, no doubt, for land division in any New England town.

Probable Neighbors of the Newcomb Brothers: Though tradition has it that fear of Indians and wild animals prevented many early settlements in Leyden, there is evidence that other courageous men, besides the Newcombs, braved the Leyden wilds at an early date. Such names as Hunt, Lee and Perry appear on the records in this connection.

Descendants of Samuel Hunt, the man who first petitioned the General Court for the Fall Town Grant, were doubtless early settlers in Leyden. Petitioner Hunt drew Lot 54 in the first division. It was a plot favorably situated on the eastern slopes of Leyden's hills. The petitioner's son, Samuel Hunt, was about the same age as Silas Newcomb and was a native of the same town (Lebanon, Connecticut). It is more than likely, therefore, that he may have followed the Newcombs north and built a cabin on his hilltop tract, remaining until driven out by hostile Indians.

John Lee of West Springfield drew Lot 72 in the first Leyden division. A recent discovery of a dated rock on his tract, suggests he may have settled in Leyden as early as 1741. The inscription on the boulder reads: "Made in 1471," but since the numbers are written upside down, it is likely the figures were written backwards, perhaps in jest. Moss and lichens had nearly covered the inscription when discovered by Ursula Fritz of Leyden in 1956.

The location of the Lee place probably was at the junction of roads leading from the east and south, and close to the road which linked the defense forts on America's northern frontier.

In the History of Bernardston, John Lee is listed as a "scribe and accountant" who married, September 15, 1736, Elizabeth, sister of pioneer Samuel Cunnabell. On May 9, 1745, Lee sold his Leyden lot to Jonathan Ashley of Deerfield. He died during the American Revolution.

The third possible early Leyden settler was John Perry of Hadley who in 1742 bought Lots 50 and 51 on the "Old Proprie-

tor's Road" in Leyden. Perry pledged to build on Lot 50 and gave a settler's bond to that effect, December 20, 1742. If Perry actually settled on Leyden's East Hill, it was for a short time, as war broke out in the spring of '44, and the next we hear of him he was at the "front." Of John Perry, Lucy Kellogg writes: "He was one of the earliest settlers in Fall Town. At the time of the storming of Fort Massachusetts, August 19 and 20, 1746, he was captured with his wife, Rebecca, and taken to Canada. She died in captivity in Quebec, December 23, 1746." When taken, Perry was listed as "a carpenter and soldier from Fall Town."

1743: During this year, it was recorded that there were 17 families settled in Fall Town. In the Leyden section, and the approaches to Leyden, lived Samuel Cunnabell at his fortified house; Major John Burk on the "Plains of Abraham"; James Couch, at the mouth of Couch Brook; Peter Newcomb, half way up the Couch Brook Road; John Lee at the head of Couch Brook; John Perry and Samuel Hunt, probably south of Lee on the Old Proprietor's Road; and Silas Newcomb, on the frontier road in his Beaver Meadow stockaded cabin.

In the eastern section of Fall Town lived the forebears of families which later settled in Leyden. These men were: Lieutenant Ebenezer Sheldon; Caleb Chapin (a descendant of Samuel Chapin, early settler of Springfield); Captain Eddy Newcomb (brother-in-law of Silas and Peter Newcomb); Corporal Alexander, who, according to official records was "ordered to Fall Town in 1745 by reason that his family resided there." It is possible that Samuel Frizzell, forebear of the Leyden Frizzells, was an early Fall Town settler, but of him we have no actual records at this time.

It is probable that other transient settlers put up rude shelters in Leyden. While roaming through the fields and woods, and along the old roads of the East Leyden area, small excavations have been found with primitive stone work enclosing them. One such excavation was discovered on the right hand side of the primeval Eden Trail. North of this site, a short distance to the left of a swampy meadow, is stone work suggestive of crude well masonry built up three or four feet above ground. Another unidentified habitation site is on the west slope of Frizzell hill where a stone foundation outline was discovered in deep woods; and on the old "frontier road" north of Couch Brook is a cabin hole of unknown origin. No one knows who lived in these spots—but it is fascinating to picture the hardy pioneers who might

have settled for a brief hour on these sites, to go on, who knows where, to an unrecorded fate.

1744: For one, two—three years, the hardy Leyden pioneers of the early '40's cleared their lands, planted their corn, strengthened and enlarged their stockaded cabins, fought off bear and wolves and "black panthers," — lived in constant dread of Indian attack, but managed to come through unscathed. The offspring of the early pioneers increased; and by the end of the third year of trial, in the Spring of 1744, the most difficult tasks had been accomplished. The hard, cold Winter was over. Planting was done. Silas and Peter Newcomb, with the other early settlers — the Lees, Perry's, Cunnabells, Burks, Hunts — could sit back for the first time "to smoke a pipe" and enjoy life of an evening

But just as the goal seemed reached, the stillness of the late Spring woods was broken by stealthy footsteps and the crackling of underbrush near the isolated white settlements. Brown forms were seen stealing like moth shadows along the edges of the clearings. Unknown to the "pale faces," a new French and Indian war was in the making.

At Leyden's approaches, near the foot of Eden Trail, an early settler, having loaded his gun, went out to his fields, leaving his wife and children in the log cabin. Her morning tasks completed, the young wife sat down to spin, but hearing a slight sound outside an open window behind her, turned, and to her horror beheld two war-painted Indians, armed with knives and guns. Instantly realizing the impossibility of escape or of summoning help, with almost superhuman effort, she turned back to her work with apparent outward calm. To her amazement, the Indians quickly turned and glided away as noiselessly as they had come, suspicious, no doubt, that her calm attitude was a trap to lure them into ambush.

Experiences of this nature were increasingly common during the early days of 1744; and at the first sign of unfriendly Indians in the neighborhood, it is safe to say that Silas and Peter Newcomb checked and carefully loaded their muskets, made sure their shutters were tightly fastened at night, added double bars to their doors and reinforced their stockades. Silas doubtless kept in close touch with his brother "over the hill" and made sure his line of retreat — eastward along the frontier road to Burk's and Cunnabell's forts — was clear.

But the constant danger of Indian attack did not sooth

the nerves of the womenfolk with babies in their arms. At Leyden's southern gateway they knew the spot where one of their kind, Eunice Williams of Deerfield, had been summarily despatched by her Indian captors; and at the eastern gateway to the town they knew the place in the deep Couch Brook chasm which held the death secret of a baby girl, thrown headlong into the abyss by a murderous foe.

Background History of King George's War: In order to form a clear picture of the situation in which the first settlers found themselves early in 1744, it might be well to review the background causes of the French and Indian war then impending, and to point out what had been done in the Leyden area to prepare for the fight.

Franco-British rivalry for American lands had begun in earnest with King William's War in 1689. War followed war; but no decision was reached. Intervals of peace, such as the 19-year span from 1725 to 1744, misled settlers into believing that peace had come to stay. But as long as Britain and France remained rivals for North American supremacy, war was inevitable. Hence, the conflict which began in the Spring of 1744 was the continuation of a war which had begun fifty-six years before — a war which was to drag on for sixteen years to come.

To offset surprise attack by Indians on the British northern frontier, the General Court on November 11, 1743, ordered forts to be built from the Connecticut River to the New York State line. The northeastern frontier was already protected by forts at Charlestown, N. H., and at "Dummer" south of Brattleboro. From Fort Dummer a scout path ran southwestward to Sheldon's Fort in Fall Town. This stockaded homestead was linked with the palisaded bastion in the Fall River Valley built by pioneer, John Burk.

In 1744, Burk's Fort was the largest and stoutest in the Leyden area. It was six rods square, built of timbers 12 feet long. These were pointed at the top and placed in the ground perpendicularly. At each corner, a watch tower was built for sentry duty. The fort contained eight houses and was the rendezvous for neighboring settlers in times of danger. Legend tells us that Samuel Cunnabell, who lived north of Burk, constructed a secret passageway from his block house to Burk's Fort for emergency use in case of Indian attack. Though Cunnabell came through the war unscathed, attacks on Burk's Fort were frequent, and

but for the stalwart John Burk, the northern frontier might have collapsed at this point.

The frontier road which led west from Burk's Fort — the pioneer Leyden road on which Silas and Peter Newcomb had settled — was undoubtedly improved early in 1744 so that easy communication between forts could be maintained. On a very early map, surveyed by William Dawes of Boston, this road is clearly defined.

After passing through Leyden and Colrain where forts already had been built, this road linked Fort Shirley in Heath, Fort Pelham in Rowe and Fort Massachusetts in the town of Adams — the last three forts having been built in 1744 as a result of the General Court order of November, '43. The road, and the line of forts was later extended to Pontoosuc near Pittsfield.

The exact course of this road, based on old records, probably ran from Burk's Fort to Couch Brook, followed the brook to Peter Newcomb's stockaded house, then wound up over the drumlin hills, north and westward past the present Glabach farm, then dipped down into Beaver Meadow where it passed the Silas Newcomb fortified house. From this point, the pioneer road meandered westward to the Green River where another fortified house (one of the "lost farms" in Boston Township #2) is reported to have been located east of the river. The trail then turned northwestward from the west side of the river and led to Fort Lucas and to Fort Morrison, at the extreme northern frontier of Colraine. At various locations along the route of this pioneer Leyden road, traces still may be found of the ancient "highway," and the general course of the old trail may be found on U. S. topographic maps upon which early, discontinued roads are indicated by thin, dotted lines.

The land which Silas Newcomb had chosen for a home was perhaps the farthest north of any white settlement in the immediate area. To the north lay a vast, unbroken wilderness inhabited by wild animals and Indians; to the west lay wild and sparsely populated country. In case of attack, Newcomb's only escape lay to the east — to John Burk's sturdy fort.

Because of his dangerous position, it is likely that Silas and others who had settled in remote Leyden areas, were warned they would have to evacuate should Indian attack become imminent.

Believing the rumors of war would pass, the Newcombs lingered on their hard-won clearings. But the face of a redskin

at a window in the dead of night, depredations to crops and cattle, or the report of nearby homes fired by war-whooping Indians, forced a decision.

The following records in the Newcomb genealogy fill out the story: "Owing to the hostility of Indians, Mr. Newcomb was compelled to leave the country in 1744." And: "When he was but three years old, his (Daniel Newcomb's) parents (Silas and Submit) were driven from their home in Fall Town (Leyden) by Indians." Of Peter Newcomb it is written that he, with his wife and child, also was driven from Fall Town in 1744.

So it was that with sad hearts, Silas and Peter Newcomb and other early Leyden settlers packed up what belongings they could carry, and with slow, cautious steps retraced their way toward the safety of nearby forts, leaving behind their dearly cherished wilderness firesides, never again to be seen by any of the pioneers who had built them. The virgin woods now closed in on the Leyden Hills and for nearly twenty years, all was still.

King George's War — 1745-1748: As Leyden's early settlers hastened to nearby forts, Indian attacks on all sides of the township increased, and so severe were Indian threats in the east part of town that the Reverend Norton, who had been granted a special allowance for "preaching to the Soldiers," was removed from his pulpit for the duration.

Burk's Fort, into which many of the pioneers had crowded, was attacked many times. During one onslaught, in which John Burk himself was wounded, his wife and the wife of Sergeant Caleb Chapin loaded the defending guns so frequently, the barrels became hot and "they could not bear their hands upon them." Needless to say, the enemy was repulsed.

To the west of Leyden, Colrain also was swarming with Indians; and Fort Massachusetts, the great stronghold of the English, was captured by a large force of the enemy. John Perry of Leyden was made prisoner at this time. Southward, in the town of Old Deerfield, two families were nearly wiped out by Indians at a spot called "The Barrs."

Though Leyden's hills were quiet as far as actual attack was concerned, its summits doubtless served as watchtowers for both French and Indian scouts, particularly from those vantage points overlooking the Greenfield Meadows.

The trail which the enemy used to reach these vantage points was probably the same used forty years before on the second day after the fateful Deerfield massacre. This wound up

the hill from the Green River where Eunice Williams was slain, veered in a northeasterly direction toward the present Dyer farm and Erhardt waterfall to the camping flat on the south side of Couch Brook where Peter Newcomb later settled. From here, the trail followed the Couch Brook to the deep ravine where one of the captives met death in a headlong plunge.

At the close of King George's War, only small overgrown clearings, made by the Newcomb brothers and their neighbors, bore testimony to white man's settlement in Leyden. The stockaded cabins of the pioneers were soon reduced to ashes.

1749-1753: King George's War ended in 1748, and the 4 years' peace which followed was marked by half-hearted attempts to resettle the northern frontiers of Western Massachusetts. Records for this period are scant, but one Proprietors' meeting was held in Deerfield March 29, 1750 "to encourage and bring on the inhabitants of Fall Town." This "encouragement" took the form of offerings of money to those settlers who would return to the dangerous hills of Leyden. A follow-up meeting was held a month later at the Ebenezer Sheldon fort where plans for re-establishing the ministry, clearing highways and levying taxes were discussed. Sporadic meetings were held during the remainder of 1750.

On December 25th, 1751, the following petition was issued by the resident proprietors of Fall Town, a number of whom later settled in Leyden. This petition was addressed to "The Hon'ble Spencer Phips, Esq, Lt. Governor & Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England."

The petition read: "Resident Proprietors of ye Plantation call'd Falltown in the County of Hampshire humbly shew . . . yt it is about Twenty years since sd Plantation or Township was Granted by the Gover't and yt one Condition of the Grant was yt Sixty families should be settled in sd Plantation within three years from the time of sd Grant. Yet notwithstanding so much time has lapsed . . . there are now but fifteen families resident in sd Plantation all the other proprietors having made default in performing ye above condition . . . We therefore humbly pray yr . . . Honours wise and compassionate Consideration of the premises and that he make an order for them as shall appear Necessary and best . . . "

This petition was signed by the following Fall Town residents: Ebenezer Sheldon, Caleb Chapin, Ebenezer Sheldon, Jr., Moses

Scot, Jn. Severance, Jn. Hooker, Aaron Field, Saml Cunnabel, Jn. Burk, Danl Dexter, David Rider, Chas. Cotes, Remembrance Sheldon.

This document plainly demonstrates the caution the early settlers exercised in "taking up" their Fall Town claims during the early 1750's.

For the year 1752, the following are the only available Fall Town records: (1) A State Archives list of proprietors dated January 14; (2) Record of a March 17th meeting held at Sheldon's Fort to decide "what measures should be taken to remove the Meeting House from the danger of fire or other injury." (3) An April 8th record ordering Samuel Cunnabel to make repairs on the Meeting House and to build a road from his house to the saw mill (probably on Couch Brook).

During the year 1753 two meetings occurred. War clouds again loomed on the horizon, and caution is noted in the proceedings. At a May 15th meeting in eastern Fall Town, it was voted that "Sam Cunnabell help underpin the Meeting House and board up the windows and hang the doors to prevent ruin & to burn grass and brush around." On October 26th a meeting was called to "abate the proprietors for lands lost above the Province line, and to raise money for preaching."

The year 1754 was one of preparedness. The English and French were building for the final great struggle, and early in the year representatives from the Colonies met in Albany to organize for war. Benjamin Franklin called on all Americans to "Unite or Die." The cordon of forts on the northern frontier was strengthened and soldiers were ordered from Deerfield to reinforce the Fall Town bastions.

In the Fall Town records themselves, there is little to indicate that war was imminent. Though the outpost fort at Charlestown, N. H. already had been captured, and every stockade southward was bristling with guns, not one mention is made of the war in the Fall Town report of Nov. 6th, 1754. This document authorizes the townsmen to levy taxes for "preaching," to settle a minister, and provides that each acre of land laid out in the Fall Town grants be taxed "except that cut off by the Hampshire survey of 1741." The Nov. 6th report lists the lots in Fall Town then settled, and proposes 32 additional lots for settlement. It gives its blessing to the proposal that "any who shall actually perform the Condition of Settlement shall receive out of the Treasury twenty-two pounds Old Tenor." This concluding note

certainly suggests that lands in Fall Town (including Leyden) were not too popular at this juncture, and judging by the scant records of this period, the 22 pound bribe was not enough to woo the unwary into Leyden's Hills at this perilous time.

By the end of 1754, the Franco-British war was raging and all Fall Town settlers crowded into Burk's Fort where it is said fifty colonists lived for nearly five full years! These settlers, some of whom were forebears of Leyden's homesteaders, are listed as John Burk, James Couch, Samuel Cunnabell, John Severance, Zebulon Allen, David Rider, John Foster, Deacon Aaron Field and Caleb Chapin — all with their families.

The War Year 1755: Old records, barely legible now, record that while the guns were blazing and every tree in the forest was a potential ambush, the Fall Town proprietors calmly proposed a Town Meeting at Sheldon's Fort "to consider renewal of a bridge across Fall River and to review the report of Committees appointed to see about building a Mill." This meeting actually was held, apparently in haste, since it was voted "not to act on the proposed articles." Probably a tribe of yelling Indians appeared outside the fort to interrupt the proceedings!

As Fall Town records between 1755 and 1760 are very scarce, the above record of a 1755 proprietors' meeting stands alone, and reflects the courage and determination of the early settlers to carry on in fair weather or foul.

During the year 1755, a volunteer regiment was raised in western Massachusetts by Colonel Ephraim Williams, founder of Williams College. In one of his companies were Sergeant Caleb Chapin and his sons, later to become citizens of Leyden. The chief seat of war that year was near Lake George where Williams' regiment was ordered to attack the forces of Baron Dieskau. In passing through a wooded ravine the regiment was ambuscaded by the French and Indians. Col. Williams was killed and Sergeant Chapin mortally wounded. His strength failing, he realized it would mean death to his sons were they to remain with him, so he commanded them to leave him to his fate. By this most courageous act, the lives of his sons were spared.

Next day, returning to the spot where they had left their father, the sons found the elder Chapin with a tomahawk in his skull. Thus died one of Leyden's valiant forebears.

The year 1756 finds only one town record — a petition by the proprietors of Fall Town filed on October 5 "for exemption

from taxes." The property owners felt that as long as their lands were not safe to live on, they should not be taxed.

The war records of the men who lived in Leyden or at the approaches to Leyden at this time are very interesting. In 1756, John Burk led a company of volunteers against the enemy at Fort Edward, and Stephen Webster, the historian, led an expedition to Crown Point. Ezekiel Foster, forebear of the Leyden Foster clan, was out "twenty days on the western frontier," while John Workman, pioneer settler in the Colrain Gore, also was out on this perilous front.

Historian George Sheldon, in a classic paragraph, describes the life of the colonial scout at this period in American history. "We picture him," Sheldon writes, "in cold and heat, in snow and rain, sleeping if he could sleep on some ice-capped peak or in a malarial swamp . . . miles away from the world of thought, with the boundless forest with its real dangers and shadowy horrors shutting him in on all sides."

Early in the war, fifteen pounds of powder and 30 1/2 pounds of lead with three dozen flints were delivered to the full garrison at Burk's Fort. Nineteen gallons of rum were added to round out the requisition. This latter allowance evidently was used for sundry purposes! On one occasion, 5 qts. of rum were prescribed "for a Sick Soldier; and 1 qt. for his Game Leg."

Meanwhile, Sheldon's Fort on the east was attacked by Indians many times; but each time Ebenezer Sheldon and his sons drove off the old enemy.

Ebenezer Sheldon, when only 12 years of age, was one of the Deerfield captives who trudged through Leyden's woods in 1704. Returning from Canada many years later, he built his fort in Fall Town so he and his children might live in safety. When the wars were over, Sheldon's grandchildren settled in Leyden close to the lands their grandsire had trod as a captive. The same may be said of Joseph Stebbins' descendants from whom we ourselves trace direct ancestry. Other "Leyden ancestors" in the Deerfield captive band included Thomas Baker, Nathaniel Brooks, Elizabeth Corse, Abigail Brown and James Alexander.

1758: Early in the year, the valiant Captain John Catlin, in command of the northern cordon of forts in Massachusetts, died in the service at Burk's stronghold on Fall River. June 25th, three future citizens of Leyden, while on a scouting trip under Capt. Burk, were captured at Sabbath Day Point near Lake George. "These men were: Agrippa Wells, Matthew Severance and Wil-

liam Clark — each one with history written on his sleeve. Wells, later to become captain of a Minute Man company, was taken to Canada, ran the gauntlet, and reached home years later via England and France. Clark, one of the early settlers of the Colrain Gore, also had perilous experiences before he was released. Severance, said to have been the first white child born at Fort Dummer, escaped his captors by hiding in a hollow log for 3 nights and two days. It is said he went in feet first, then pulled in leaves and grass to cover the opening. Indians looking for him, walked over the log, even sat on it but failed to find him and he reached home safely.

During the year 1758, Hugh Morrison of Colrain picketed his house and built a watchtower 23 feet high on the road leading east through Leyden. Corporal Preserved Clapp, first owner of the Newcomb lot on Leyden's East Hill, was sent with ten men to Huntstown (Ashfield) where he "garded the inHabitance."

Captain John Burk's enlistment role, ending November 30th '58, included the following from Fall Town. They were known as Burk's Rangers:

John Foster	James Couch	Michael Frizzell
Caleb Chapin	Joshua Wells	John Severance

Other Fall Town men listed as veterans of the French and Indian wars include:

John Perry	Hezekiah Chapin	Richard Carey
Agrippa Wells	William Clark	Drummer Fuller
John Evans	John Workman	Matthew Severance

Following the 1759 capture of Fort Ticonderoga by Lord Jeffrey Amherst and the collapse of the great fortress of Quebec, all in the Colonies believed the end of the war was at hand, and there was great rejoicing. By October 8, the soldiers guarding the forts along the Western Massachusetts frontier were dismissed "except," writes Sheldon, "those serving at Fort Massachusetts and Hoosuc."

Eleven months later, the last bastion of the French at Montreal fell under the hammer blows of General Amherst, and the great conflict which had raged, intermittently, for nearly 75 years came to a close.

Peace with the French and Indians came just two hundred years ago. Two hundred years ago, the red skin laid down his tomahawk and scalping knife. From that day to this, no Indian war cries have been heard in the Leyden hills.

CHAPTER III

Second Settlement Period

With the fall of Montreal in 1760, the stage was set for a huge wave of settlement in the Northeast. The Leyden area was in the direct line of the oncoming tide, and on April 16th a meeting was held at Sheldon's Fort. At this meeting, new bridges were proposed and mill sites chosen. It also was voted to lay a road north to the Province Line. In fact, the men of Fall Town, and all Colonists living near the northern frontier, now felt it was safe to expand — to reach farther into the wilderness. Though the April record is the only one dated in 1760, it is enough to convince the historian that the Fall Town settlers now meant business.

The year 1761 opened with the first proprietors' meeting at Major Burk's fort. At this gathering on March 25, the clearing of highways was the chief topic, with Samuel Cunnabell voted head surveyor. The next month meetings took on a religious character when it was voted to purchase "3000 boards for the ordination ceremony of the new minister, the Reverend Job Wright." This event was publicized in the leading Boston newspapers.

On December 16, the Fall Town residents filed a petition with Francis Bernard, His Majesty's Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, begging that the Fall Town Grant be incorporated into a township by the name of Bernard. The question of more land for the township also was brought up at this time.

On March 6, 1762, Fall Town became incorporated under the new name of Bernardstown,* and took its place beside the growing communities of the state. Though the township then included all of present Bernardston, Leyden and part of East Colrain, only the eastern approaches to Leyden were settled. In the entire township because of the disastrous wars, only 34 acres of land were then under cultivation. About 25 families resided in the township at this time — an increase of 8 since 1743; a rise of 15 since 1755. Such names as Joshua Wells, Mr. Frizzell, Ezekiel Foster, Selah and Daniel Chapin, begin to appear on the Leyden horizon at this period — but the important name of Hunt stands out in particular.

*Note: The name "Fall Town" will be used in this text through the year 1783.

In the official Newcomb genealogy, a Charles Hunt is recorded as "born in Leyden . . . 1763." And according to the Hunt genealogy, Charles' father was Samuel Hunt of Lebanon, Connecticut. This is interesting, historically, because it ties in Charles Hunt, the earliest recorded Leyden native of the second settlement period, with the pioneer Newcombs of the first settlement period, who were also from Lebanon. Add to this the fact that Hunt Hill in Leyden leads directly to Beaver Meadow where the Newcombs settled; and the record that Charles Hunt married the daughter of Daniel Newcomb, it then seems conclusive that the Newcombs and the Hunts, both coming from the same Connecticut town, one family with a recorded birth in Leyden during 1741, the other with a recorded Leyden birth in 1763 — may well be Leyden's two "first families."

The actual Newcomb-Hunt record is found on page 140 of the John Bearse Newcomb genealogy. It reads:

"Jerusha, daughter of Daniel Newcomb, b. Nov. 3, 1771 in Leyden where she married in 1788 Captain Charles Hunt born in Leyden March 18, 1763. He was a teacher for many years."

The fact that Charles Hunt was born in Leyden in 1763 points to the probability that his parents, Samuel and Hannah (Clark) Hunt were among the first to return to Leyden in the second settlement period. It is probable, too, that Daniel Newcomb, came back with them, for the Newcomb genealogy states that Daniel "settled in what is now the town of Leyden soon after his majority, upon the home lot, the same upon which he, and all his children were born."

During 1764 the first evidence of settlement on Leyden's eastern hills was recorded in the following deed unearthed at the Franklin Registry:

"1764, Sept. 28, Moses Belding & Elizabeth Chamberlain of Hinsdale, N. H. for 14 lbs. 14 shillings, paid by Michael Frizzell of Bernardston, and Reuben Frizzell of Hinsdale . . . House Lot 73, 1st Division, in the Fourth Year of His Majesty's Reign."

According to the Frizzell genealogy, Reuben and Michael were the sons of Samuel Frizzell who first settled in Shrewsbury, Mass. He moved to Fall Town with his family during the French and Indian wars.

Miss Elizabeth Bagg, a descendant of the Leyden Frizzell family and an alumnae officer of Wesleyan University, says the original Frizzell name came from Normandy where the first member of the family was knighted "William des Fraseau" by William the Conqueror. This honor was bestowed in return for a bowl of delicious wild strawberries which Fraseau had given the hungry and thirsty monarch. The name soon evolved to Frazier when descendants of "Strawberry William" removed to Scotland. From this area they emigrated to America.

In 1763, Michael had holdings in the southeastern corner of Fall Town, but these soon were sold to the prominent citizen-to-be, Elisha Burnham. It is likely that Michael, with his brother Reuben, moved to East Hill in Leyden late in '64 and began clearing land. Reuben had acquired property about half way up the steep Couch Brook Road (lot 166, third division), and on a level spot near the brook, erected the first frame house in Leyden. Michael later built at the top of the hill, south of the road. The "widow Frizzell" who is said "to have formed the first settlement on Frizzell Hill," probably was the mother of Michael and Reuben. She is known to have been a remarkably capable woman, and doubtless took matters in hand when she came to Leyden with her two sons.

With the danger of Indian attack passed, the pioneers of Leyden became less cautious. Roads which had kept to the hill-tops, now were laid along brooks and valleys. Hence, when the Frizzells entered the Leyden picture in 1764, they put in a bid for a town road the entire length of the historic Couch Brook. Shortly after this, we find in the local town records: "Road from James Couch's to Michael Frizzel's Lot #73, confirmed."

The year 1765 was a year of expansion, a year of preparation, a year of transition. In three years the township had nearly doubly its population. According to the "Lost Census of 1765" there were then 40 families in Fall Town: 54 males, 53 females, 123 children and 38 houses.

And with this growth, a change of "politics" was slowly brewing in the minds of the colonists. It may be remembered that King George III came to power shortly after the close of the French and Indian wars. No longer needing the Colonists to fight his enemies, the British king began to put pressure on the Americans. Trade with nations other than British was forbidden; taxes were raised. The hated Stamp Act was passed in the Spring of '65. As New Englanders were forbidden to trade with

the sugar-producing West Indies, the spirit of Yankee independence came to life. Pioneers, particularly in the Leyden area, got to work on the manufacture of their own sugar. Samuel Cunnabell, whose fort stood at the eastern approaches to Leyden, took matters in hand and before the Spring had ended, claimed a sugaring business of his own.

The Pioneer Maple Sugar Story: It is a fact known to comparatively few that the inhabitants of the Leyden area were among the first to make maple products to any great extent. In 1765, "Dodsley's Register," a British periodical, recorded that a method of making sugar and molasses from the sap of a certain tree called the Maple had been discovered and put into practice at several points in New England, but especially in Bernardston, twenty miles from Athol. According to the Lieutenant-Governor Cushman papers, English periodicals added to the local maple sugaring reputation when, in a rare anecdote, Samuel Cunnabell was credited with the enigmatic distinction of "gathering sap in a basket and boiling it in a tub."

Before 1765, the Colonists had been slow to imitate the Indians in sugar making. Except in remote districts, the white man bought muscovado or low grade cane sugar from the Spanish and French Indies. While the Indian preferred his maple sugar because "it tasted more of the forest," the white man referred, somewhat condescendingly, to Indian sweetening as "Indian sugar and melasses."

It wasn't till the close of the French and Indian wars that the Reverend Samuel Hopkins of Springfield, with an eye to the future perhaps, suggested that "it would be prudent for Colonial farmers to spare their maple trees, and utilize them in supplying themselves with their own sugar."

Before this time, settlers who had ventured to make maple products had employed odd methods. One man cut small branches from his maples, then tied bottles to the dripping twigs and waited for the sun to distil the sap as it flowed into the translucent containers! Another, bored gimlet holes in his trees and inserted goose quills to draw off the liquid from sap reservoirs cut, six inches deep, in the tree trunk above. All set their catch buckets on the ground, Indian style. These were either hollowed-out basswood chunks or "birchen baskets." It wasn't till late in the 18th century that the hanging bucket was invented and eight-inch spigots of elder and sumac put into use. It wasn't till 1790 that state agriculturists recommended

auger tapping in place of the old and injurious method of "axe-tapping."

When Dodsley's Register inferred that a new method of sugar making had been discovered in New England during the 1760's, the editors doubtless referred to the Yankee method of boiling sap directly over the fire in contrast to the Indian method of "hot stone boiling." To be sure this "new" method of kettle boiling had its advantages, but 'tis said the syrup was often dark and scorched tasting, with ashes, leaves and smoke adding to the flavor. However, after some of the dirt and twigs had been strained out through mats of hemlock boughs, the resulting "me-lasses" was quite palatable!

In the case of Samuel Cunnabell's sugar-making processes, we find that during a great moment in American history he combined Indian sugaring methods with early Yankee methods and added a brand new sugaring element all his own.

Samuel Cunnabell, like his cousin, John, (who later settled on Frizzell Hill) was an inventive man. It is said he built his stockaded house with a trap door leading from his parlor through an underground escape route to John Burk's Fort — just in case the Indians ever got too much for him. And long before his maple sugar innovations, he devised, with his daughter's help, a water-powered spinning wheel. When the Stamp Act came along and the sugar cane ports were blockaded by King George, Cunnabell got to work with his "basket and his tub."

The explanation to this seeming impossibility, according to one historian, was that sap was gathered in a basket when frozen, then boiled in a tub. Another conclusion is that during intervals of peace, Cunnabell picked up the Indian tricks of sugaring, including the art of making sap-tight, birch bark vessels; that he collected his sap, frozen or unfrozen, in these buckets, or birch baskets, as they were often called. An official Maine record states that as late as 1862 sugar-makers in that area were collecting sap in such baskets.

In a brief paragraph, Lt.-Gov. Cushman explains just how Cunnabell made use of his boiling tub. "Like most pioneers of his day," Cushman recounts, "Samuel Cunnabell owned a large potash kettle, conical in shape, but shallow. His ingenuity suggested that greater depth might be acquired by putting a tub atop his kettle; so procuring a tub with "ears" to it through which a handle could be inserted, he removed the bottom, placed the tub within the kettle and firmly packed the two

together. When this combination was suspended over an open fire from an improvised crane of crotched sticks, he was ready "to boil sap in a tub."

Thus was born Sam Cunnabell's famous sugaring contraption. Nor was this purely a local innovation. Longer and longer the shadows of war were lengthening over the land, and colonists everywhere were turning to the production of essentials from native sources. Echoing Cunnabell's sugaring "philosophy," a patriot wrote: "Those who have maple trees will not neglect their sugar-making which is not only the most welcome and pleasant sweetening, but being the product of our own country will ever have preference by every true American."

So it was that Fall Town's Samuel Cunnabell with his old potash kettle, set tub and birchen baskets, did, in a way, proclaim his own Declaration of Independence — sugarwise — a good ten years before the shots at Concord Bridge echoed round the world.

The Florida Grant on Hoosac Mountain: It already has been pointed out, in references to the 1752 and 1753 petitions, that the original northern boundary of Fall Town extended over the present Massachusetts-Vermont line; that when the official boundary survey was made in 1741, it chopped off a good deal of land formerly belonging to Fall Town proprietors. At the time of the survey, the land north of the Massachusetts line belonged to New Hampshire, since Vermont did not come into being until 1777.

The territory lost to New Hampshire was nearly a mile wide in eastern Fall Town but tapered down to a narrow strip in the western, or Leyden, section. Even so, we find that the 50-acre Beaver Meadow lot #97 sold by John Hunt to Hezekiah Chapin, was whittled down to 15 acres by the 1741 survey.

To compensate Fall Town proprietors for lands lost in this manner, frequent petitions were addressed to the General Court in Boston. It was not until June 25, 1765 that the Court confirmed a grant of 7350 acres "to the Proprietors who had lost land taken off by running the Line between Massachusetts and New Hampshire." The new grant was not in a neighboring township, however. It was located forty miles to the west of Fall Town, atop the Mohawk Trail on Hoosac Mountain!

On October 17, 1765, the proprietors voted to "lay out the Grant on Hoosuc Mt." because there was not enough land to go around in the original Grant. In the State Archives there is

a plan of this survey dated October 21. This plan, like most early maps, shows no natural features at all. The survey begins "at a Birch Tree" in the northwest corner, runs 1222 rods south to a "Hemlock," then east 960 rods to a "stake and stones," then 1222 rods north to a "Spruce Tree," then 960 rods west to "place of beginning." As a help in locating the Florida Grant, this plan might just as well have been made of a plot in the Antipodes!

In 1793, a tax of one and a half pence per acre was levied on Hoosac Mountain land "for the purpose of making a road across the Grant." The proposed road was, without a doubt, part of the famous Mohawk Trail which now carries hundreds of thousands of tourists over Whitcomb Summit each summer.

One direct Leyden tie-in with the Florida Grant is a high spruce-covered peak, nearly 3000 feet above sea level, just north of Whitcomb's Summit. Today this elevation is known as Crumb Hill. It was named for Leyden's Dickensey character, Phineus Crumb, who, after clearing a homestead in West Leyden, trekked into the wilds of Florida's Hoosac mountains and settled near the hill which bears his name.

Leyden also is represented on Hoosac Mountain by colorful murals at Florida's "Trail Top Inn" depicting scenes along the trail of the Deerfield captives. These scenes, some of which have a Leyden background, were painted by Arthur N. Fuller, son of Henry Kirke Brown's best friend.

The Controversial and Hitherto Unexplained Boston Township Grant Given to the Proprietors of Fall Town: One week after the Florida Grant was laid out, a meeting was proposed for laying out another Fall Town Grant known as the Colrain Gore. As far back as 1736, the proprietors of Fall Town had agitated for more land. In 1740, the soldier-surveyor, Thomas Wells, was sent to Boston with a petition requesting "a gore of land lying between the Township of Fall Town and Boston Township #2 above Deerfield." This grant was allowed; yet little or nothing was done about surveying the area.

Until recently, it was assumed that the Colrain Gore lay entirely on the west side of Green River; but that did not account for the strip of land lying between Green River and the western boundary of Fall Town grant. This strip is clearly shown in that excellent history, "The Vermont Story." On an early map of the Leyden area, the western boundary of "Fall Fight Town" is shown well east of Green River, with Boston Township #2 covering the lands between the river and the Fall

Fight Town line. This portion of the "Gore" now takes in Leyden Center and all of West Leyden. The map in the front of the book shows, approximately, the boundaries of the "Colrain Gore."

Early reference to inhabitants in the "Gore" is found in a 1764 Fall Town record which stipulates that "people living in the Gore do their own work on the road running through said Gore." The road was doubtless the highway laid out from Deerfield to Colrain in 1741. It ran through the "Gore" on the west side of Green River. Zebulon Allen of Fall Town was appointed surveyor of this road when it was re-established in 1763, after the wars.

The people living in the Gore as early as 1765 were those who had been granted isolated homesteads by the General Court. The names of Hubbard, Calf, Dr. Bolton and Nuberry appear in early "Gore" records as holders of large farms near the river. The Nuberry farm was laid out as early as November 23, 1753.

The first legal document relating to the Colrain Gore in Boston Township #2 is dated October 25, 1765 and is addressed to Major Elijah Williams of Deerfield. This record reads: "We, the subscribers, proprietors of a Tract of Land called the Gore, adjoining to Fall Town in the County of Hampshire, Bounded east on the original Grant, West on Colrain, South on Deerfield, North on the Province Line, desire that you would issue a warrant to the Proprietors [of Fall Town] on the First Tuesday in Jan'y Next for a meeting to be held at the house of David Hoit, Innholder, at one O'clock to choose a moderator, clerk and treasurer. Sd Prop's to agree upon some method for laying out said Land to Each Prop. his part, and to raise any sums of money which may be necessary to defray charges which shall arise & do anything that may be necessary to lay out and settle said land . . . " The document was signed by Thomas Williams, the Rev. Jonathan Ashley, Jon'n Ashley, Jr., Bridget Bert and Joseph Barnard. It is interesting to note that the house where this first "Gore" meeting was held was the famed "Old Indian House" on Deerfield Common.

As far as is known, the above is the first definite record which proves that Leyden originally was divided into two distinct parts; that the western section was not settled till many years after the eastern section was laid out.

The minister's rate for February 1765 lists the following

settlers in East Leyden and its approaches: Major John Burk, Daniel Chapin, Samuel Cunnabell, Captain Michael Frizzell, Joshua Wells and Lieutenant Daniel Newcomb. Across Green River, on the west side, John Bolton, Abraham Peck and John Workman are listed as owners of isolated farmsteads. There is no indication of settlers in West Leyden at this time.

During the year 1766, a slow, but steady development is noted in the Township. Time after time, settlers had been misled into believing war was over, so they moved into the wilderness, inch by inch, taking nothing for granted. On Jan. 16th, Oliver Brewster, of Mayflower descent, purchased for 27 shillings Lot 54 on Leyden's East Hill. Brewster, like Leyden's other pioneers, came from Lebanon, Connecticut.

On January 7th, further business toward the development of the 7000-acre Gore tract was put through when it was voted that Ebenezer Sheldon, Aaron Field and Remembrance Sheldon survey and make a plan of it. It also was voted to levy a tax of 6 shillings (about \$1.25) on each right, to defray the charges for the survey.

On February 14, a Fall Town meeting was held "to see if the town will lay out a road to the West part of Town & do something towards clearing the same." It also was voted to choose a Committee to determine the use of timber derived from clearing "the several roads in Town." Indicating that new roads were of chief concern at this time, March records for '66 tell of "20 days' work on the road to the West of Town and 12 days' work on the road through Colrain Gore, John Bolton surveyor." Other roads were laid out in Fall Town this year, but of chief interest to Leyden was the "road to the West part of town" — doubtless the original Couch Brook Road which was later to carry many of Leyden's "Revolutionary" settlers.

Even at this early date, there was a tang of rebellion in the air. King George, uncertain of his American subjects' loyalty, had sent red coats to Boston to keep an eye on the Colonists lest they show too much independence. The Stamp Act of the previous year (proceeds from which were intended to pay for the support of the unwanted British soldiers) had been denounced by Benjamin Franklin and Samuel Adams. The latter gentleman, known as "The Father of the Revolution," was, years hence, to sign a document making Leyden a free and independent district.

In 1767, while Governor Francis Bernard was being censured in the Boston press for conniving with the King against the people, Samuel Adams, with other great patriots, was swearing he would "eat nothing, drink nothing, wear nothing" which had been imported from England. This attitude was reflected in New England's hill towns where Colonists were determined to strike out "on their own."

On Leyden's eastern approaches, the year was marked by the completion of the first town highway, the first grist mill and the first frame house.

Research has proved that the saw mill lot (176a, third division) was near the chasm where the Deerfield captives passed over the Couch Brook on a single unsteady log. Proving that the mill was a reality, it is recorded in 1767 that "Samuel Cunabell be allowed 18 shillings for getting plank for the bridge below his mill and laying same on the Couch Brook Bridge." West of this site, the records show that Hezekiah Newcomb, forebear of the Leyden Newcombs, had established himself by 1767, and in the same records we find the notation that "Reuben Frizel was voted 2 shillings for work done on the road to his house." This is the first reference to any house in Leyden — the first frame house on the hill named for the Frizzell family. The road to which reference is made doubtless was the first town road running "to the west part of town."

Now this pioneer road — the Couch Brook Road — and the first Leyden frame house were more than pioneer accomplishments per se: They marked the skeleton beginnings of what was later to become part of the famed Dorrilite Colony — a strange renegade sect organized by William Dorril, one-time British prisoner in Yankee irons!

The Year 1768: As the west part of the Township became populated, the inhabitants, particularly in the "Gore," felt that their convenience should be consulted in regard to the location of the church and meeting house. The first meeting house had been erected in 1739 on eastern Fall Town's highest point and was intended to serve the religious needs of the entire township. But because of the rough travel between the east and west sections of the town, and the distance involved, those in the west wanted the meeting house near them; those in the east wanted it to stay where it was. Evidence that Leyden wanted the church on its "middle grounds" is borne out on one of the early maps where "Ministry Lot" is marked on a spot just off the

Old Proprietor's Road on a high rocky hillock near Eden Trail (see map).

After appointing an "unbiased" committee to decide the question of the meeting house location, it was moved (in 1768) one half mile south of its original site on Huckle Hill, under the direction of the ubiquitous, Samuel Cunnabell, and with the added help of "a barrel of rum furnished at the Town's expense."

This did not settle the question for the churchgoers who lived on the far side of Green River. A petition was therefore sent to the Governor of the State. It read:

"For years now we labor under very difficult circumstances, by reason of being at such a distance from the meeting house which is not less than 14 miles from the nearest of us, and then we are obliged to go in a round about way through Shelburne and Greenfield . . . and your petitioners would further inform your Honours that it is impossible to get a road any other way by reason of a large river with very high banks on both sides, and the water, many times in the year so high it is impossible to get a road over . . ."

This petition, which concluded with a plea for annexation to the town of Colrain, was signed by the pioneer settlers of the Colrain Gore. These were: John Workman, George Clark, Andrew Henry, David Morris, Andrew Lucas, Robert Riddle, Abraham Peck and William Stewart. Others listed as "Gore" residents about this time included John Newell, John Bolton, Thomas Shearer, Wm. Nelson, John Matthews and an old colored man named Remus.

Emphasizing the fact that the petition was overdrawn, the defense pointed out that the "River and Hills were not represented in a true light: That the river was not so large but a tree would reach across it, and a Bridge be made to stand on said River; and that the Banks and Hills were passable in some places." This latter statement bears out our belief that a scout path or bridle way had been opened over the hills of West Leyden during the French and Indian wars. This roadway, which linked the frontier forts, may have grown up considerably after the conclusion of the war, but apparently, in 1768, was still "passable in some places."

The defense brought up another interesting point in connection with the Colrain petition. Annexation of the "Gore" to Col-

rain, they said, would very much hurt, if not spoil, the chance of having another parish in the west, or Leyden section of the town. This prediction came true when all the families living in the Colrain Gore turned to the Colrain church and those in the east part of town went to the church on Huckle Hill. Leyden, half way between, was left without any nearby place of worship, and this lack strongly influenced its religious tendencies during the formative years; and may well be the reason for the acceptance, by many of Leyden's early inhabitants of the strange creed of William Dorril.

1769 — Early School Records: The Reverend John Robinson, pastor of the Leiden Pilgrims in Holland, charged the members of his flock to "build churches, read the Bible without sectarian prejudice and establish schools."

In Fall Town, the first proposal for a school system was in 1769, and the following year, the sum of two pounds was appropriated for school teaching in private homes. One such school was at the home of Samuel Cunnabell near the Couch Brook.

In 1771, there were 90 children in town in want of schooling, and one shilling and four pence (about \$.33) were allowed each child for a year's instruction. Girls from 6 to 12, and boys from 6 to 16 were considered as "schoolars."

The entire township was divided into five school districts, four in the east and one for "those people in ye west part of ye town to be located where they agree." That this location was in the Leyden area is substantiated by the Dec. 20, 1773 record in which it is recorded that "all the schoolars at Beaver Meadow and Frizzell Hill go to one school." It also was stipulated that those "schoolars" joining on Colrain be allowed money for schooling.

According to old records, girls were admitted to the Fall Town school rooms from the first. This practice was advanced for early colonial days when many contended that a girl's education should be limited to a thorough mastery of the domestic arts. Book learning for women was considered superfluous. Even as late as 1776, in some eastern Massachusetts towns, it was voted that "the master should instruct girls two hours after the boys had been dismissed!" And this was considered quite a concession to the ladies! In other New England areas, girls were allowed to attend school only during the summer months, while the boys were on vacation. In the Leyden district, how-



The Brewster-Hastings House

ever, boys and girls shared the same educational advantages from the beginning.

The earliest Leyden teacher's record is found under date of May 29, 1773, when the Widow Shaddock received 1 pound, 17 shillings and 4 pence "for teaching." Widow Shaddock was doubtless a member of the family which later became prominent in the Dorrilite movement on Frizzell Hill.

As before noted, the original Fall Town school lot of 100 acres was located on the west slope of Frizzell Hill, but as frequent references to its sale or lease are found, it is not likely it ever was used for school purposes. It was probably chosen in early days with an eye to defensibility in case of Indian attack, but with that threat gone, schools were located in more convenient spots.

Captain Jonathan Budington, in a rare anecdote, recounts: "The Log Schoolhouse soon appeared [in Leyden]. One of the oldest inhabitants used often to relate her teaching experiences in those early days. To her, it seemed wonderful how the children came out of the woods to school, and how they would return home safely through the woods, leaving her alone."

Rare indeed are early Leyden school records. We do know there was a school in Beaver Meadow in the 1780's when "the schoolhouse" is mentioned in a Daniel Newcomb deed. And this same Newcomb, after marrying Irene Field of Fall Town in 1769, contributed substantially to the attendance of said school with a round, one dozen children. In a later chapter, we shall see how the notorious William Dorril played a part in swelling the ranks of the Frizzell Hill school district.

Two interesting highway and church notes wind up the year 1769 in Fall Town: The first "road payment" was recorded when James Couch was allowed "10 shillings for land on Couch Brook taken out of his draft by the road that goes out to Reuben Frizel's." It was voted by the townsmen "to meet one half of the time on winter Sabbaths at the house of Oliver Brewster." Apparently the meeting house was more frigid than even puritanical training could endure!

The Year 1770: It will be remembered that in 1768 General Gage sent two British regiments to Boston to keep an eye on the Yankees lest they show too much independence. On March 5, 1770 these troops clashed with the Colonists and the first blood of the American Revolution was shed. As will be seen, those

who were soon to become Leyden citizens were witness to the "Boston Massacre," as it was called.

In Leyden itself during the year 1770, the town was marking time for the third wave of settlers who soon were to flock into its hills and valleys. Bridges were strengthened; roads cleared; proposals were made for providing schoolmasters to "teach the youth of the town." The pioneer families of Newcomb and Hunt added two more children to the growing roster of Leyden's native sons. The foundation for the settlement of Leyden was laid. The curtain was about to rise on a new period of expansion during the epochal Minute Man period to follow.

The Year 1771: The first newcomer to Leyden in the third settlement period was John Cunnabell of Boston. John was a cousin of Samuel who had settled years before on Fall River. Like Samuel, John had been baptized in the Old North Church. He had married Sarah Crafts whose patriot father, hung in effigy one of the British tax collectors in Boston. It was John's sons who witnessed the first fighting between the British regulars and the wrathful Yankee mob.

On March 26, 1771, John Cunnabell mortgaged the homestead in Boston and bought from Timothy Bigelow of Leyden for 130 pounds two lots (No. 2, Third; and 74, First Division) on the north side and near the head of Couch Brook. The price of 130 pounds for these lots, which a few years before had been purchased by Bigelow for 20 pounds, suggests that some "improvements" had been added. Such increases in lot prices from owner to owner usually indicated that buildings had been added to the property. Hence, it is fair to assume that when John Cunnabell, his wife and two sons arrived in Leyden, they found at least a cabin on their lands. The frame house, with huge central chimney, still standing at the head of Couch Brook, was doubtless built shortly after Cunnabell's arrival. This was the second frame building in Leyden and was later to become part of the Dorrilite Colony.

On March 19, 1771, Thomas Shattuck of Petersham purchased from the Reverend Jonathan Ashley of Deerfield, Lot 72, 1st Division, for 31 pounds. The Shattuck homestead, built on an elevation overlooking the Couch Brook Valley, was later the scene of many Dorrilite escapades.

Evidence of activity in the Leyden Hunt family at this time is reflected in the "Hunt Hill" announcement that "Mary Hunt,

daughter of Thomas and Anne Hunt, was born February 12, 1771."

The Frizzells again appear in the records of '71 when the selectmen voted to "lay out a road from Michael Frizel's to Beaver Meadow in the most convenient place, and that they apply to M. Frizel for direction in the affair." The next town article proposed that a road be layed out "from that road which goes out to Reuben Frizels, to Hezekiah Newcombs." Timothy Bascom, who had settled on East Leyden's lot #56 (later the Newcomb homestead) was allowed 2 days' work "to cut a road from his house to Reuben Frizel's." These early Leyden roadways not only linked the Fall River area with Frizzell Hill and Beaver Meadow, but helped link neighbor with neighbor.

Proof that livestock had been brought to Leyden by 1771 is found under a September 18 heading which reads: "Marks of Sundry Person's Creatures." In the list which follows, "Reuben Frizel" is assigned the stock identification mark of "a cross in ye left ear and a Swallows tail in ye right ear."

In the central and western parts of Leyden, activity increased this year as the first County Road, later to be known as the Ethan Allen Highway, was laid out, north and south, from the Greenfield line through what was to become Leyden Center, to the Guilford line. At this time, pay for work on this road was established at 2 shillings, or about \$.48 per day.

Guilford, at this time was becoming the most thickly populated of all "Vermont" towns. It was soon to become the home of the famous playwright, Royall Tyler; the poet, Henry Denison (grandson of Leyden's David Denison), and the rendez-vous of rebel "Yorkers." Guilford was closely linked with Leyden as a result of the new County road. In fact, the parents of Leyden's great sculptor, H. K. Brown, traveled this highway when moving from Guilford shortly before the birth of their illustrious son.

On November 19th, while residents in the Colrain Gore were petitioning the General Court "to be set off from Fall Town," a meeting was being held in Deerfield for the purpose of "agreeing upon a method of laying out the proprietor's Lands in the Gore." Five years had elapsed since the first meeting. Apparently nothing had been done about surveying the West Leyden lands during the interim.

The Year 1772: Two illustrious New England names were added to Leyden's citizen list early this year when Daniel Chapin, son of the brave Indian fighter and descendant of Spring-

field's early settler, is recorded as a homesteader in Beaver Meadow where a son was born on March 3rd. Farther west, we find the first record of a settlement on the new county road where Daniel Cooledge, of the same stock as our 30th U. S. President, built a cabin on the present List place. Cooledge made the journey from Rhode Island with his wife, Anna, riding "pillion." This was the year patriot Rhode Islanders blew up the British blockade runner, *Gaspee*, off Newport. Following this "parting shot," Cooledge took to the hills.

To the west, definite action was being taken to survey that section of Boston Township which included West Leyden and East Colrain. At a late Spring meeting, Hezekiah Newcomb, Ebenezer Nash and Caleb Chapin were assigned to "survey the tract and find the acreage; also to determine the measurements of Farms lying within the Grant, make a plan of same and determine the good and the bad lands." Oddly enough, it was further voted that the Committee "measure off the Poor Lands as 1st Division, or house lots, and the remainder as 2nd Division lots — in all, 98."

Jonthan Ashley, lawyer of Deerfield, was elected treasurer in which capacity he was asked to collect a 5 shilling tax from each Right. Preparations were then made for the drawing. The system is so unique that the records, published here for the first time, are given in some detail.

"Deerfield, 1st Tues. Feb. 1773: Voted that rites in ye Gore be laid out to ye 1st Div. House Lotts [owners] in the Orig. Fall Town Grant excepting ye Ministry and School Lotts. (2) Voted that 52-acre Lotts be 1st Div. lands and ye 23-acre Lotts be ye 2nd Div. Lands in Ye Gore. (3) To Draw for sd Lotts as follows: That ye number of rites in sd gore reckoning according to ye 1st Div. or House Lotts in the Orig Grant . . . be separately rolled up and put into a Box and that ye no. of Lotts of 1st Div. Gore Lotts be rolled up and put into another Box and that ye No of Lotts in Ye 2nd Div Gore be rolled up and put into another Box."

"Voted that Thomas Williams, Eleazer Nash, and David Dickinson be a Committee to Draw for Lotts in ye 1st and 2nd Divs: First, to Take a number out of the Box of [original] Rites. The Lotts drawn immediately after the Number of ye Rite shall belong to that Rite. Ye Drafts of Lotts shall then be recorded in ye Proprietor's Book."

In the record books we find the following puzzling notation: "Re'd from Sam'l Cunnabell on his Rites in ye Gore #67

(53-21), 6 sh." This indicates that Cunnabell paid 6 shillings for Lot 53 and Lot 21 in Divisions 1 and 2 of the Gore — both lots drawn on his original Rite #67 in Fall Town. Oliver Brewster drew Gore Lotts 87 and 43 on his original Rite #54. Hezekiah Newcomb, with four original Fall Town rites, drew 4 1st Division and 4 second Division lots in "ye Gore."

On May 4th at Hoit's Inn at the Old Indian House, Deerfield, it was voted by the Fall Town proprietors to tax each acre of the Gore "two Farthings exclusive of the 4 farms laid out in sd Gore before the survey."

The actual survey dated May 29, 1772, is as follows: "Beginning at the SW corner of Fall Town, old Bounds, at a heap of Stone in Grfld line on edge of large Oak Hill (set stake here) and ran W . . . 476 perches (rods) to the West side of Green River, thence the same course 614 perches to a Black Birch . . . which is the SE corner of Colrain, thence N . . . 379 perches to a stake and heap of stone, the NW corner of Newbury's grant, then ran E on Newbury's line 190 1/2 perches to his corner, then S . . . 228 perches to a Beech Tree on his SE corner. Found his grant to be 18 a. 44 p. over measure. Then we returned to said stake and stones on Newbury's NW corner and ran N . . . 154 perches and came to a stake and heap of stones, the SW corner of Hubbard's grant which runs from sd stake E 290 perches to Green River . . . Found his survey to be 36 acres over measure. Returned to Hubbard's NW corner which is Calf's SW corner and continued our course 263 1/2 perches to a heap of stone . . . called Calf's NW corner, then cont'd our course 17 perches to Green River. From thence the course to the NW corner of the Gore is N . . . 662 perches to a stake and stones in the Province Line, from thence E . . . 331 perches where we erected a heap of stone and Mark "B.T." From thence the line is 2039 perches to ye 1st Boundary." The survey was carried out by E Nash, Surveyor and C. Chapin and H. Newcomb, "Chane-men." It was conducted under the supervision of Oliver Brewster, Hezekiah Newcomb and Captain Agrippa Wells.

Two thirds of the land within this survey lay on the east side of Green River; one third on the west side. The area covered is clearly shown on the map in the front of the book.

First division lots in the "Gore" were laid out in tiers running south to north. Lot #1 ran 60 perches west from the old Fall Town line to the "west side of Country Farm Brook." This established the eastern boundary of the "Gore" about 60 rods

east of Country Farm or Glen Brook. Lot 35 in the second tier (later the property of Captain Agrippa Wells) ran to the west side of the County Road and reached north "a little above the Crook of the Brook."

The second division, or 23-acre lot 22 in tier 3, "began at an Oak in Cors (Corse) fence and ran west 160 perches to Green River." This lot, near the old Corse farm, marks the area where the trail of the Deerfield captives began. Showing how close the forts of Colrain were to the western "Leyden" boundary, we note that lot 67 in the second Gore division was bounded on the northeast corner by the lands of David Morris, fort builder of the Old French War.

With the opening of West Leyden to homesteaders, roads were extended and new clearings began to appear on the virgin hillsides. With news of the Boston Tea Party still ringing in their ears, settlers began to "dig in" with growing independent spirit. Across Green River, Aaron Whitney pitched "camp" just north of the aforementioned Morris Fort. In Beaver Meadow, Alpheus Barstow, of Norwich, Connecticut, appeared with his wife and belongings and settled close to his cousin, Daniel Newcomb. At the eastern approaches to Leyden, Major Stephen Webster, that old veteran of the Indian wars, put his farm on record by proclaiming the identifying mark of his "creatures" as "a cross in ye right ear and a slit in ye end of ye left ear."

The Year 1774: Enraged at the audacity of the Colonists who had destroyed his valuable cargoes of tea, King George of England bore down, closed the port of Boston and took all government out of the hands of the people. Patrick Henry, indignant at this treatment of Americans, cried "We must fight." Shortly after this, the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to set up a government independent of Britain; and John Hancock, heading the Massachusetts government called for 12,000 volunteers, of whom one third were "Minute Men" — men ready to serve their country at a minute's notice.

In Leyden, more newcomers sifted into the high, green hills. Charles Packer, later to play an important role in the town's history, appeared on the scene with Captain Walsworth from Rhode Island. A new road was opened westward along the highlands above the Keet or Shattuck Brook to the homestead of Minute Man, David Paige. Bridges were strengthened; the building of school houses proposed. An attempt was made to unify the east and west parts of town, under one spiritual head,

when it was voted that besides the annual 40 cords of wood, all should contribute toward the general comfort of the pastor. Those living west of Thomas Hunt in Beaver Meadow were asked to make special contributions.

The year 1774 in Fall Town, as in all New England, was a year of consolidation, a year of preparation, a year for tightening belts. It was a lull year before the coming storm.

CHAPTER IV

The Revolutionary Period

Foreshadowing momentous events to come, the following notice, dated January 24, 1775, was issued by the constables of Fall Town: "All inhabitants are hereby directed to attend a meeting at the Tavern of Major John Burk, on Monday, Jan. 30, 1775 at 10 o'clock in the morning for the following purpose:

"To see if they will grant the Minute Men inlisted in their Town anything for the time they shall spend in learning the art of Military Exercise, or any encouragement for same purpose."

This was the local opening gun of the American Revolution. It was quickly followed by an emergency meeting in which John Cunnabell, Elisha Burnham, Joseph Slate, Joel Chapin and James Couch were elected a "Committee of Inspection." According to George Sheldon's *Deerfield History*, such committees of inspection and safety acted as a kind of police force during the Revolution. Their chief work was to intercept correspondence between Tories and the British foe; to round up disloyal Americans; and to punish such men by confiscation of their property.

At the time of the April Lexington alarm, Captain Agrippa Wells, closely linked with Leyden's history, immediately formed a Minute Man Company and was soon on the march to Cambridge. The muster roll of his Company for April 20th '75 included "Michael Frizzell, who left place of rendezvous, May 3rd, then returned home." Capt. Ezekiel Foster, later to become a Leyden settler, served as a Lieutenant in Capt. Wells' company. Other Leyden Minute Men were Daniel Chapin, Thomas Hunt, Simeon Allen, Reuben Shattuck, Samuel Cunnabell and David Davis who had settled in Beaver Meadow two weeks before war broke out. John Hunt is listed in Colonel Whitcomb's regiment; while John Workman, veteran of the Indian wars, appears on the roll of Colonel Woodbridge.

It is interesting to note the varying ages of the hardy Minute Men who dropped everything to march over a hundred miles to defend their democratic rights in the first great revolution in history. Men of all ages responded to the call of the fife and drum.

Michael Frizzell was 35; Lieut. Foster, 23; Thomas Hunt, 58; Simeon Allen, 20; John Workman, 40.

On May 18th, it was voted that the town "provide 16 men, together with those already enlisted to serve in the Continental Army at Cambridge." It was also voted to raise the pay of those militiamen serving in the Provincial Army.

Response in furnishing needed supplies for their brothers in arms was spontaneous and generous. In 1775, many blankets were carried to Cambridge for the soldiers from Fall Town. Four hundred and forty-five pounds of bread and 115 pounds of pork were supplied to Captain Wells' Company. By the end of the war, nearly 10,000 pounds of beef had been given the fighting men by the township.

"Soon after June 17, 1775," writes historian Kellogg, "occurred the Battle of Bunker Hill, the news of which spread rapidly throughout the Colonies. All the peaceful arts were laid aside, and everyone assumed the offensive. Virtually every man old enough to carry a gun repaired to the scene of action."

The Minute Man Company of Captain Wells was reorganized as early as May 1st, and, according to Sheldon, "served in the siege of Boston." This undoubtedly included the Battle of Bunker Hill. In Wells' company at this time were Leyden men: Reuben Shattuck, David Davis, Daniel Chapin, Thomas Hunt and Ezekiel Foster.

Meanwhile, those who had remained at home — older men as a rule who had served in the Indians wars — guarded the firesides and kept up the flow of food supplies to the front. One such veteran was Minute Man, Joseph Slate, who while ploughing on West Mountain on that memorable June 17th '75, believed he heard, far in the distance, the rumble of cannon. For years this story persisted as a New England fable. Recently, a thorough research was conducted on the Bunker Hill gun legend. The results, first published in Yankee Magazine, are reprinted here.

The Bunker Hill Gun-Legend Story: That the guns at America's first great fight for independence were heard more than 100 miles from the famed battleground near Bunker Hill, is a New England legend which has persisted for nearly two centuries. Today, the answer to this enigma of early Revolutionary times may be near solution thanks to a local history project and a well-timed note to a major general inquiring about recent unexplained rumblings in the New England hills — rumblings so

loud that dishes rattled on pantry shelves and farm dogs took to shelter under household furniture.

The story is this: While working on Leyden's history, the author, a World War II "sound sleuth," ran across a story which told of Minute Men in fields near Leyden hearing gunfire on June 17, '75, the day 1400 raw Yankee recruits held their ground for many hours against 3800 crack British red coats, backed by the big guns of His Majesty's navy. So sure were the Leyden men that "blood was again spilled in defense of their country," they dropped their field tools and headed, post-haste toward the sound of the cannon which they rightly believed near Boston, 100 miles away.

Tying in this unique, "call to arms" with the puzzling rumbles recently heard in and around Leyden, was a natural sequence. After it was clear that neither jet planes, thunder, moving freight cars or blasting were likely causes of the distant boomings, the commanding officer of the nearest army post, 52 air miles distant, was contacted. Definite information was given him as to the exact time of day a series of thunderous explosions had been heard in the hills of Leyden. The communication also mentioned the Bunker Hill legend, suggesting that if the artillery at the army post could now be heard 52 miles away, it was possible the ancient Bunker Hill fable about far-reaching gun sounds, might be more fact than fiction.

Nothing was heard from this communication immediately, but within a few days, a front page story appeared in the local press telling of our attempts to solve the Bunker Hill gun riddle and confirming artillery firings at the army post (Fort Devens) at the exact time the boomings were heard in Leyden. The newspaper story concluded: "Investigations and questions asked of personnel trained in the sonic sciences reveal that under certain favorable conditions it is possible to hear heavy gunfire at unusual distances. These conditions prevailed on the day of the Leyden report and this confirmation may well be the justification for the ancient Bunker Hill gun legends which have puzzled historians for generations."

Shortly after this news item appeared, an invitation was received from the Fort Devens commanding officer, Major General Bryan L. Milburn, requesting our presence at the Fort on Army Day. The general had learned of our ancestor's part at Bunker Hill and as a Minute Man on the Lexington alarm. "We would be most happy," he wrote, "to welcome the great-grand-

son of one of Washington's officers to the largest military establishment in New England." During the uncertain days of the 1950's, General Milburn evidently thought it opportune to encourage the "Minute Man" spirit of alertness.

So much interest was aroused in the Bunker Hill gun story, we decided to do a thorough research on the subject. As a result it soon became apparent that not only Leyden, but towns up and down the Connecticut Valley claimed similar gun legends. In all, about sixteen Bunker Hill noise stories were collected. Some of these came from citizens of very high standing.

President Eleazer Wheelock of Dartmouth College, writing to the Governor of Connecticut, Monday, June 19th 1775, penned: "Last Saturday we heard the noise of cannon, we suppose at Boston, and we now are impatient to be informed of the occasion and the event." This was quoted in the Jaffrey, N. H. history. It was written in Hanover, 112 airline miles from the battle.

The Reverend Laban Ainsworth, pastor of the Jaffrey church, and student at Dartmouth also reported the sound of gunfire in Hanover on June 17th. Workers shingling the meeting house roof in Jaffrey are said to have heard the distant boomings also.

Colonel James Ripley, a settler in Cornish, N. H., wrote his sister: "We arrived in Cornish on the 14th day of June 1775, and on the seventeenth the sound of cannon thundered through the woods." Similar records came from Plymouth, Lebanon, Washington and Dublin, N. H.; while Hartford, Vermont and Quechee provided other gun-noise reports. Massachusetts contributed Bunker Hill legends from Worcester, Winchendon, Townsend, Templeton, Cummington and Chesterfield. In Cummington, one of the uncles of New England's famed poet, William Cullen Bryant, is reported to have heard a far-away cannonading which "proved to be the onset at Bunker Hill."

British ordnance records reveal that the guns near Bunker Hill probably created the greatest bedlam ever experienced in New England. It was learned, too, that about 98% of the racket heard in the Leyden hills came not from Bunker Hill (or Breeds Hill where the Yankees actually were entrenched) but from the guns of British battleships, gunboats and land batteries in and around Boston harbor.

The four known British men-o-war which belched smoke and noise and cannon balls toward the American redoubt were his Majesty's ships: Somerset, 68 guns; Lively, 20 guns; Glasgow, 20 guns; Falcon, 16 guns, or a total of 124 cannon which, accord-

ing to official British naval records could explode 824 pounds of powder. Add to this, the explosive poundage of the British shore and floating batteries, and some idea of the huge noise-making potential of the British guns may be gleaned.

The Yankees, under Prescott, Putnam and Stark, were limited to six light field pieces and their muskets, so the American noise-making potential on Bunker Hill day was negligible compared with the thunderous British uproar which historians tell us was, happily, more noisy than effective.

The next step in the research was to find out what the weather was on that memorable June day. If gun sounds are to be heard far from their source, conditions must be right, particularly wind direction. With this in mind, the Harvard Blue Hills observatory was contacted. "Fair and hot" was their report for Bunker Hill day. But this did not furnish the vital clue — wind direction.

After consulting the 1775 diary of Professor John Winthrop, however, and with the added valuable help of a 20th Century meteorologist, it appeared virtually certain that Bunker Hill day dawned fair and windless; that a light sea breeze sprang up from the northeast about 10 A.M. and shifted to east by noon (the time the heavy cannonading began); that the wind turned to the southeast by 3:30 P. M. In other words, winds from noon to 4 P. M., the period of greatest noise intensity, were ideal for carrying the battle sounds far inland. The fact that the majority of Bunker Hill gun legends come from towns in line with east or southeast winds, confirms this theory.

Summing up the findings: On several occasions, the sounds of 105 mm. howitzers, firing 52 miles from Leyden, were heard on an easterly wind. The powder charge of these guns was 10 pounds maximum, with one gun firing at a time. Sounds from large fireworks displays, set off at a known distance from the Leyden observer, and with known explosive charges, checked with Fort Devens observations.

From conservative estimates, it is believed the maximum noise-producing power of the British guns at "Bunker Hill" was equal to about 200 powder pounds exploded at one time, or twenty times the Devens' gun poundage.

Experts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology furnish figures which indicate that the boomings at Bunker Hill could have traveled 4.4 times as far as the sounds from Fort Devens to Leyden, or 228 miles.

Verified records reveal that the guns of Gettysburg carried inland 150 miles, to Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Large explosive charges, heard in Paris, are known to have carried 230 miles.

In the Chase History of Hanover and Dartmouth College, the author comments on the Bunker Hill gun noises reported from many points in New England: "The sounds were universally attributed to the Battle of Bunker Hill," he writes, "and were certainly contemporaneous with it. They could indeed have come from no other source. Strange as the facts appear, they are too well authenticated to be doubted."

* * * * *

On the 1775 Leyden home front, the older settlers carried on the necessary production of crops, extended roads and increased their herds of livestock. Samuel Cunnabell, having laid down his musket for the time-being, is recorded as "branding" his cattle and sheep with "a hole in ye right ear and a cross off ye left ear."

A new road was laid from Frizzell Hill down into Beaver Meadow and "from Daniel Newcomb's to Alpheus Barstow's on to ye County Road westward." A road through Ezra Shattuck's lot on East Hill brought 12 shillings "damages." Indicating that a new mill had been erected on Keet's (Shattuck's) Brook, the following article was recorded November 17, 1775: "To see if the town will lay a road from Sam Cunnabell's grist mill to the County Road between Deerfield and Guilford to accomodate the inhabitants living in the north part of town." A short time before this, mention was made of a proposed road from "Beaver Meadow to Cunnabell's Corn Mill on the Northwest Branch of Fall River." This road joined the Keet mill site (see map) with the Beaver Meadow Road. In the old days the Shattuck Brook was called "Northwest Branch."

The above notes, perhaps a bit trivial in themselves, show that with the outbreak of war, the Colonists were determined to forge ahead in the building of their town; to "go it on their own" if need be. Roads, bridges, mills and new homsteads were in the making. With George Washington in command of the Continental Army near Boston, the Colonists were confident all would go well.

The Year 1776: Early in the year, the inland Minute Man towns began to check on their ammunition supplies. On February 12th a vote was passed "to see what the Town will do in

Reference to that Powder the Soldiers drew out of the Town Stock at the time of the Lexington alarm." On March 4th: "Voted that all men who took powder out of the Town Stock last Spring in the Alarm and returned home soon from Cambridge are to be accounted to for same." And later in the year we find the record: "To see if the town agrees to get an additional stock of powder."

Of the older Leyden citizens, Daniel Newcomb was one of the most active officials during the early days of the Revolution. He was constable and collector in '75 and '76. Later he joined the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety in the work of detecting those citizens who might be disloyal to the cause of American independence.

And at the mid-year, following the British evacuation of Boston, independence was a word on every patriot's lips. On the 4th of July, as all know, John Hancock, seconded by Samuel Adams (later to sign important Leyden papers) affixed their signatures to the Declaration of Independence.

On the home front, too, special political activity is noted when on September 30th, the following article appears in the town records: "To see if the people will agree & Consent that the Representation of this State of Massachusetts Bay in New England, together with the Council . . . shall consult, Agree on and enact such a Constitution & Form of Government for this State as the sd House of Representatives and Counselors . . . shall judge most fitting to the Safety, Peace and Happiness of this State . . . and to see if they would direct the same be made publick for the inspection & perusal of the Inhabitants . . . " This follow-up to the Declaration of Independence marks the first Fall Town record bearing on a state constitution.

While Washington battled it out with the British on the Hudson and along the Delaware, barely maintaining the existence of the American Army, those on the home fronts marked time by increasing their stock and building up their farmsteads as best they could. In Leyden, the surnames of Wells, Chapin and Clark appeared on the citizen list while the Shattuck, Frizzell and Hunt families substantially increased their holdings.

The Year 1777: This, the first full year of American independence, is marked by increased activity on all "fronts." It opened in Fall Town, on Feb. 17th with a special meeting "to see if the people will abate any of these men their taxes that were in the Service of this State or the United States last year, or before."

While General Washington battled Howe around Philadel-

phia, and Burgoyne poised to strike in the Hudson Valley, those at home were cooperating in all ways possible to bolster the fighting men. In Fall Town, a new Committee of Safety was elected with Captain John Burk, Major Stephen Webster, Joel Chapin and Elisha Burnham at the head. War material, in the form of raw iron ore had been discovered in the hills just east of Leyden. Ore from this magnetite vein helped furnish fighting materials for men at the front; a limestone bed next the iron was ground up to neutralize acid farm lands in the area.

The Yorker Controversies: Meanwhile, history-making events were transpiring near Leyden's northern borders. Until this time, the territory north of the Leyden line had been claimed by both New Hampshire and New York. But in 1777, the Republic of Vermont (first named "New Connecticut") rose, free and independent, of both New Hampshire and New York. However, a large number of die-hard "Yorkers" in the new Republic, still clung to what they believed their rights under New York rule. It was these "Yorkers" or a large number of them, whom Ethan Allen chased into Leyden from Guilford via the County Road. This was in 1778. The road has been known as "Ethan Allen Highway" since that time.

Despite Allen's efforts, however, Yorker troubles persisted for some time. In a letter to his father, as late as 1784, John Burke, Jr. wrote:

"The New State men and Yorkers keep quareling. One Spicer of this Town sot out to goo to Gilford with a yorker and the New State men way Lade the road and Shot Spicer through so that he Died in a few ouers "

Hall's History of Eastern Vermont records that Daniel Spicer (a resident of Leyden) was a young man of good repute. He set out to accompany David Goodenough, a Yorker, to Guilford, but they were stopped by Soldiers (probably near Packer's Corners) and Spicer was killed.

A letter signed by Timothy Church, William White, Samuel Bixby and Nathaniel Carpenter, four Guilford "refugees" who had fled into Leyden, was sent to Governor Clinton of New York. The letter, dated March 10, 1784, gave an account of the Spicer murder and was published in the Massachusetts Spy of April 8, the same year.

The above story is not only a definite record of the long-sustained "Yorker" border war between Leyden and Guilford, but

also explains why many "Yorker" residents in Guilford fled into Leyden over the Ethan Allen Highway.

* * * * *

Getting back to the mid-summer of 1777, we find that David Paige, a Leyden settler of this period, responded to the call for volunteers at the time of the Bennington alarm. Paige was "out" four days in mid-August and helped General Stark and the Green Mountain Boys route the Hessians — British mercenary troops hired to fight the "Yankees" because many Englishmen rebelled against battling their own kith and kin.

Two months after the Battle of Bennington, General Burgoyne was routed and his army captured at Saratoga. Among the captives was one William Dorril, later to become Leyden's notorious "spiritual" leader. Among the American officers at Saratoga was Captain Agrippa Wells, soon to become a leading citizen in Leyden's administrative affairs.

Though Philadelphia was in the hands of the enemy, the Saratoga victory gave France sufficient courage to back the American cause. This encouraging news soon reached the hills of New England and gave impetus to growth and expansion. Such stalwart Rhode Islanders as Oliver Babcock and Enoch Briggs took heart, and with faith in their new country, braved the western slopes of Leyden to set up cabins in the wilderness. Roads which had been mere pathways till now were widened. A town vote at this period recommended that "the roads in the western part of town be repaired . . . so as to be passable for carriages. This is the first reference to vehicles on Leyden roads.

Indicating there was a tendency for the eastern and western sections of Fall Town to draw apart, the following is noted in the town records of '77: "To see if those in the eastern part of town will vote to make the western part (Leyden) a district by itself." The first line for Leyden's "Declaration of Independence" had been written.

The Year 1778: Reflecting the historic events of this period, articles in the Fall Town records reveal further growing independent trends as the Revolutionary War progressed favorably for the Colonists.

On January 17, this resolution appears in the Fall Town books: "Voted to give Captain Elisha Burnham, our Representative, some instruction Respecting the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union of the American States." On January 18,

came this injunction: "Voted Lt. Ezekiel Foster, Samuel Guild and Elijah Kingsley be a Committee to draw up Instructions for Capt. Burnham."

Articles dealing with men and supplies for the fighting fronts were: "Feb. 14 — To see if the townsmen will agree about methods to get this Town's part of the Continental Soldiers which are yet wanting, and what encouragement they will give to any man or men willing to engage in service of the Continental Army." March 2: "Voted to give 50 pounds to each man who enlists into the Continental Army for 8 months to compleat this Town's quota of the 15 Battalions that are to be raised in the State of Massachusetts Bay." May 14th: "Voted to raise a sum of money sufficient to pay Rations for 8 months for men raised by this Town to serve as Continental Soldiers." Nov. 21: "Voted . . . to raise money to pay for the clothing of the Continental Soldiers raised in this Town . . ." On July 8th, it was voted that "the West part of Town (Leyden) shall make Joshua Wells a reasonable satisfaction for serving as a Militia Soldier for 8 months." Also, "that the West part of town shall find men as Militia Soldiers to go to Albany as its proportion of the two Draughts last Spring."

While problems of men and supplies for the war fronts were being settled, new settlers were streaming into the Leyden hills, particularly into the newly opened Gore, the official records of which had recently been retrieved from Deerfield Tories.

It was in '78 that Enoch Briggs of Little Compton, R. I., settled on the Coolidge place and built the house now owned by Thomas E. List near the Old County Road. Briggs had married Judith Wilbor in 1756. Their son, Owen, was to play a colorful role in the war for independence. Enlisted for 8 to 12 months' service at the age of 19, he was held as a reserve militiaman until May 19, 1780 when, on the un auspicious "Dark Day," he set out to join the Continental Army. Fortune favored him, however. Later, he distinguished himself as part of the guard which helped bring about the exposure and downfall of Benedict Arnold.

Another outstanding settler at this time was Elder Joseph Green, the first pastor to brave the wilds of Leyden. He settled north of Enoch Briggs on the County Road close to the birthplace of Leyden's great sculptor, Henry Kirke Brown. Shortly after his arrival, he encouraged his son, Paul, to move into Leyden from Rhode Island. The story goes that Paul, heeding his father's dictums, started out with his family late in the Fall, making

his way on foot and driving his stock (1 cow, 1 sheep and 1 hog) ahead of him. When he arrived at Old Deerfield, it was Sunday and the law of the land was such that anyone traveling on Sunday would be arrested. The Deerfield River was in front of them. It was covered with ice scarcely thick enough to insure safety.

"A church meeting was being held nearby," says Chester W. Severance in his Leyden Centennial address. "The Greens realized their situation and trembled as to the consequences. Paul said: 'We will take the cow across first, then the sheep and last the hog because the hog might squeal and attract attention.' The cow was driven upon the ice and down she went, but they seized her by the horns and drew that end toward the opposite shore as far as practicable, then they took her by the tail, making a like advancement, till finally, by alternating their efforts from head to tail, they succeeded in getting her across the stream without rousing the Deerfield citizenry. Then came the sheep and the hog — both ferried across without incident — and the Greens breathed more freely as they wended their way northward."

"The first meal of victuals they ate after arriving in Leyden," said Severance, "was bean porridge, the anniversary of which was celebrated in like manner for seventy years." Paul moved in with his father, Elder Joseph, and shortly after that built his own house, known now as the Weaver place.

Other settlers in Leyden in 1778 include Richard Eson who trudged over the hills from Taunton with his wife and three children to settle in the Budington Valley; Samuel Guild and Ezekiel Foster, who built homes in Beaver Meadow; Ner Wells and Benjamin Grinnel, homesteaders in the Frizzell Hill area. In the "far west" of Leyden, the name of Peleg Babcock first appears on the records at this time.

During the year, the question of partition again came up. As in many New England towns, communication between remote sections was most difficult. Citizens in West Leyden did not think they received an adequate return for their tax money. Roads were inadequate, schools primitive and the church over ten miles away. Hence, on June 1st it was voted "to see if the inhabitants of the East and West parts of Town will agree to Divide the town . . . " On the 4th of June, Major John Burke, James Couch, Aaron Field for the East part, and Capt James Walsworth, Captain Elisha Burnham and Lieutenant Daniel Newcomb for the west part, were elected a Committee to agree as to

the dividing lines between East and West.

The Year 1779: Legislation on the home front was divided into three categories at this time. (1) Legislation covering Fall Town's obligations in supporting the Revolution then being fought in the Southern States. (2) Legislation covering the adoption of a State constitution. (3) Legislation covering the partition of the Township.

On August 16, the following war legislation was laid before the people: "Proposed that Capt. E. Burnham, Lt. John Severance and Lt. Robert Riddle be a Committee to present a Petition to the Great and General Court of this State asking that this Town may be relieved of the great burden laid upon them above other towns in this State respecting the charge of the War."

This article contained far more dynamite than first met the eye. It was the initial suggestion of the growing unrest among the over-taxed, war-burdened people. It was a forerunner of the unrest which terminated in Shays' Rebellion.

This article also brought to light for the first time in Leyden's records the name of Riddle, or Riddell as it was later spelled. Robert Riddle, on the above-named committee, was the grandfather of Leyden's leading scientist, Dr. John L. Riddell, later to become a pioneer in theoretical space travel.

On the state constitutional slate, the question was raised as early as April 19 as to just how the town would vote in respect to a new State government. The result was 68 for and only 2 against. It was further voted to "impower our Rep. to vote for a State Convention for the sole purpose of forming a new Constitution . . . providing the Constitution when formed, shall be sent back to the people and if 2/3 of the people are for it, it shall be Established, but if more than one third are against it, it shall be null and void." On July 29th, it was voted to "chose some person to represent the township in a Convention of Delegates to convene at Cambridge on Sept. 1st for the purpose of forming a new Constitution of Govt."

Such caution on the part of the people to pass on or accept new constitutional legislation, reflected their hesitancy to approve any laws which might limit or infringe on their hard-won independent rights.

During 1779, two important changes occurred within the township's boundaries. On April 12th it was voted "to set off to Colrain the lands belonging to Fall Town, West of Green River." This constituted virtually 2,500 acres of the one-time Bos-

ton Township # 2. On Patriot's Day, April 19, further division of the township took place when it was voted to divide the Fall Town lands east of Green River into two districts, with the boundary at the south line of the town located "1 mile West of Zebulon Allen's dwelling, from thence running north one half mile West of Joseph Edwards' house and thence northward to the north line of the town." The map in the front of the book shows the location of this dividing line.

Even at this time, a few Leyden faithfuls braved the muddy and snow-packed roads, and made their way to church in the east part of the Town. Evidence that efforts were being made to make more attractive the church meeting-house is shown in the following record dated March 1st: "Voted to nail on the boards that are come off the Meeting House; also to nail up the windows to make it more comfortable: Ye windows in ye lower part to be made so as to slip up." This "modern improvement" was doubtless a reference to the introduction of guillotine windows in the church.

For the second time in '79, the name of Lt. Robert Riddle appears on town records as a special committee member — this time to "pass on Town Accounts." John Adams, a new Leyden resident, also is listed on this Committee.

In the Leyden birth records at this time, we find "a child born to David and Ruth Potter, on Ethan Allen Highway, April 17." Children were born also to Ezekiel and Chloe Foster in Beaver Meadow.

In the west part of town, Phineas Crumb, Nathan Culver and Joseph Elliot added their names to the Leyden roster. And in the southeast, Eudy and Millis, Hessians from Burgoyne's hard-pressed army, appeared as citizens of the community.

The Year 1780: The treachery of Benedict Arnold and his arrest was particularly significant to Leyden people not only because Arnold had burned the New London property of one of Leyden's settlers, but also because Owen Briggs played an important role in the downfall of this unprecedented turncoat.

Early in the year routine legislation was carried out on the home front in regard to bounties to be paid. Ten shillings per month in silver money was offered to "those men who shall serve." In lieu of cash, the bonus could be paid, at the soldier's option, in "wheat, rye, Indian corn, wool, flax, meat, cattle or sheep."

The town also voted to "raise 116 pounds (about \$580) to

purchase 3360 pounds of Beef (including hides and tallow) for the use of the Army agreeable to an Act of the Gen. Court of this State bearing date, Sept. ye 25, 1780." Hezekiah Newcomb, later to figure prominently in Leyden affairs, was one of a committee to purchase the beef and see it delivered to the proper authorities.

A new note of excitement was introduced into the Town this year. Counterfeit bills, probably manufactured on "Counterfeit Island" in the Deerfield River, found their way into the town treasury. On Nov. 17, this article appears on the town records: "To see if the people will make up to Lieut. John Severance the loss he has sustained by Counterfeit Money as Collector." On Dec. 4th the subject was further discussed. It was voted that "if Lt. John Severance, who has been collector of taxes, has received any Counterfeit money for sd. taxes and can make it evident to a Committee that shall be chosen to pass the town acts. that the very Bills he shall produce are ye very identical Bills which he used for Taxes, he shall be allowed a sum equal to the sum of the Counterfeit bills, allowing for depreciation."

Indicative that the improvement of roads was much in the public mind, the question of laying out roads agreeable to the Petition of Phineas Crumb and others in the Western part of the town was introduced on August 20th. A road from Beaver Meadow to the Guilford line established the general location of the homesteads of Elisha Burnham, David Davis, Selah Chapin, John Fuller and John Hunt. Burnham lived at the foot of Hunt Hill on the old Hescox place; John Hunt was on the Baker place, with Davis, Chapin and Fuller between in south to north order.

Late in the year, the town voted that "Chapin, Couch and Loomis be a Comm. to take care that no person or persons cut or carry off any wood or timber from the Ministry or School lands." Apparently timber poaching by the over-burdened poor had grown to sizable proportions.

New names to appear in the town include: Uriah Wilbur who came from Rhode Island. His daughter, Phoebe, was born June 10th in what is now Leyden Center. Benjamin Baker, on the River Road, is recorded as having a son born October 26th 1780. And William Clark of West Leyden is credited with setting out the first apple orchard on the never-to-be forgotten Dark Day of this year.

The Victory Period — 1781: This was the year that General Nathaniel Greene of Rhode Island, rated second as an offensive

leader in the Revolution, hammered away at the British in the South, while Generals Washington and Lafayette hemmed in Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Evidence of Fall Town's active part in these campaigns is reflected in the following records: "Jan. 8, Voted to double the quota of beef (6454 lbs) for the Army." Voted, "to raise the sum of Sixty pounds Silver money or paper money, Equivalent per man, as a bounty for each soldier that Enlists to serve in the Continental Army for a term of 3 years or for the duration, 20 pounds of said money to be paid at the beginning of each year." July 26: "Voted, to give each of the Militia men 10 dollars (two pounds) as a Bounty for serving the term of 3 years." Sept. 5: "To see what measures the people will take to pay the men for the horses found last year for the Army." Dec. 3: "Voted, to give Ens. John Cunnabell six pound for the horses purchased of him for the Army." It also was voted to raise "three pound twelve sh. for mileage money paid the solds."

In other words, the town was furnishing men, beef and horses for the Army, along with extra pay and mileage money for the soldiers. The three-year enlistment period in 1781 is evidence that the speedy conclusion of the war was not then anticipated.

Evidence of over-taxation of the people is shown in the following Feb. 16th proposal: "Voted, to see if the people will send a petition to the Gen. Court to make known . . . their inability to pay the heavy taxes or to raise more men . . ."

On March 5th, it was voted that those in the West part of Town shall have the money that shall be assessed on them in the Minister's Rate to pay for preaching among themselves. This is the first indication of a breaking away of the Western churchgoers from those in the east part of the town. The minister's tax was an added burden to the already overtaxed people and the March 5th ruling allowed them financial freedom in their own church matters. Though they had no church in Leyden, the Elder Joseph Green was ordained on July 5th and part of the 66 pounds raised by the township "in silver money, wheat, rye, Indian corn and flax" went toward Green's support in West Leyden. Little did the people know that from the nearby town of Warwick, the Britisher, William Dorril, soon would appear to fill the "spiritual vacuum" which was forming in Leyden's eastern hills.

Demonstrating the increase in Leyden's population since 1774 when there were but 15 families in the town, the following

list, arranged according to the geographical location of each homestead, brings up to date the Leyden census to 1781. Among the outstanding newcomers were Peter and Mary Gates. These adventurers from Groton, Connecticut were the grandparents of John Riddell, later to become Leyden's leading scientist and theoretical voyager 'round the moon.

Names marked with an asterisk indicate residence in Leyden before 1775. "FH" indicates residence on Frizzell Hill. The letters "BM" stand for Beaver Meadow; "KB" for Keet's Brook Road; "CR" for County Road; "WL" West Leyden Road; "RR" River Road; "LR" Lamb Road. The letters N, E, S, W, and C following "FH," "BM," etc., stand for North, South, East, West and Center of "FH" etc., respectively. The list begins with settlers in the Frizzell Hill section and follows the pioneer trail westward.

1. Benj. Green, Jr. (FH-E) Built at foot of Frizzell Hill
- *2. Ens. John Cunnabell (FH-E) Built 2nd Frame House in Leyden
- *3. Reuben Frizzell (FH-E) Built 1st Frame House in Leyden
- *4. Capt. Michael Frizzell (FH-E) First town road laid to his land
- *5. William Orvis (FH-S) Early settler near Ministry lot
6. Samuel Orvis (FH-S) Early settler near Ministry lot
7. Israel Bagg (FH-S) Settled on present Baker place
8. Ezra Shattuck (FH-N) Made wooden shoes for Dorrilites
9. Noah Bigelow (FH-E) Early landowner on upper Couch Brook
10. Capt. Elisha Burnham (BM-E) First Leyden State Representative
- *11. Lt. Reuben Shattuck (BM-E) A Revolutionary soldier from Leyden
- *12. Daniel Chapin (BM-E) Descendant of Springfield's early founder
13. Selah Chapin (BM-C) Son of the Indian fighter, Caleb Chapin. Born in Burk's Fort
- *14. Lt. Dan'l Newcomb (BM-C) Leyden's first native son: A "Mayflower"
- *15. Daniel Coolidge (BM-W) First pioneer from Rhode Island
- *16. Alpheus Barstow (BM-S) Pioneer from Lebanon,

Conn.: A "Mayflower"

17. Capt. Ezekiel Foster, Jr. (BM-W) Broke up Dorrilite meeting; fought Dorril
18. Captain John Hunt (BM-N) Descendant of Fall Town Grant petitioner
19. Samuel Guild (BM-?) First selectman from Leyden district
20. David Paige (KB-N) A militiaman on the Bennington alarm
21. Samuel Wheat (FH&KB) Early landowner in East Leyden
- *22. Joshua Wells (KB-S) Born in "Fort House", Greenfield
23. Ner Wells (FH-N) Son of Joshua, of Deerfield stock
24. Asa Wells (FH-N) Son of Joshua, of Deerfield stock
25. Jabez Spicer (CR-S) Killed in Shays' Rebellion
26. Capt. Agrippa Wells (CR-S) Member of the Constitutional Convention
27. Asher Corse (CR-S) Hunter of Wolves; Ancestor of "Milwaukee Harriet"
28. John Cately (Katley) (CR-W) Pioneer on Cately Hill, Leyden
29. John & Caleb Adams (CR-C) Of the famous Massachusetts Adams family
30. Thomas Crowfoot (CR-?) Falls Fight descendant from Springfield
31. Richard Eson (CR-C) Pioneer from Taunton, Massachusetts
32. John Eson (CR-?) To Leyden, 1780
33. Lt. Joseph Eson (CR-C) Very active in Shays' Rebellion
- *34. Enoch Briggs (CR-C) Built first frame house on County Rd.
35. Ebenezer Vining (New Center) Ancestor of physician Vining
36. Henry Wesen (SE Leyden) Probably a Hessian soldier
37. Uriah Wilbur (New Center) Town Meetings held at his home
38. David Dewey (BM-Road) Young member of the Dorrilites
39. Timothy Morgan (BM-E) Forbear of Dr. Morgan,

pioneer Leyden physician

40. Joseph Elliot (CR-C) ?

*41. John Davenport (New Center) Forbear of Williams College trustee

42. Eld. Jos. Green (CR-N) Leyden's first Baptist pastor

43. David Potter (CR-N) An early Dorrilite member

*44. Charles Packer (CR-N) Posed for 1st H. K. Brown sketch

45. Capt. Jas. Walsworth (CR-N) Pioneer in Leyden District

46-49. Amos, William, Nathan and Jas. Walsworth, Jr. (CR-N) Sons of Capt. Walsworth ?

50. Capt. Sol. Alexander (CR-N) Fought last Leyden Indian

*51. Capt. Jos. Babcock (CR-NW) West Leyden pioneer from R. I.

52. Joseph Clark (CR-NW) Settled near West Leyden cave

53. Benjamin Whitman (CR-NW) Lived on "cave" road?

54. Amos Noyes (RR-N) Moved from Guilford to escape "Yorkers"

55. David Gates (RR-E) "Gates Hill" namesake ?

56. Peter Gates (RR-N) Grandfather of John L. Riddell

57. Dea. Benj. Baker (RR-C) Pioneer from Guilford, Vt.

58. Dea. Benj. Harris (RR-C) Harris Brook namesake

59. Capt. Jared Crandall (RR-C) Political leader in West Leyden

60. Joseph Crandall (RR-C) Son of Captain Crandall

61. Phineas Crumb (RR-E) Early settler on Florida Mountain

62. Billington Crumb (RR-E) Descendant of Mayflower stock

63. Peleg Babcock (WL-Road) "Peleg Bog" namesake

64. Oliver Babcock (WL-Road) Built on present Robertson place

65. Elisha Clark (Off-RR) Set out first Leyden orchard

66. Paul Green (WL-Road) Drove a cow, sheep and hog all the way from R. I.

67. Humphrey Palmer (LR) West Leyden Pioneer

68. Peleg Brown (RR) 1st settler near W. Leyden mill site

69. Robert Riddle (RR) Grandfather of J. L. Riddell

70. Jonathan McCumber (RR?) First Scotch-Irish Leyden settler ?

Homesteaders listed in East Colrain during 1781 were: Deacon Lucey; Wm. Stuart; Thos. Cochran; Benj. Carlton; Abraham Peck; John Workman; Thos. Shearer; Geo. Clark; David Morris; Robert and Wm. Folton; Moses Ranger and John Matthew.

In assessing the 1781 tax "11 lb., 11 sh., 4 d. was laid on each poll, and two farthing & 11/100 on each pound of Real Estate value." At this time, boys between 16 and 21 were rated as 1/2 poll; males over 21 rated one full poll. The above odd method of taxation would have called for a minimum poll tax of \$58; but only \$2.00 would have been charged on property valued at \$1000!

Proving that Cunnabell's Mill had been shifted from Couch Brook to the larger Shattuck Brook at this time, the following article is found in the record books: "Proposed that a road go to Cunnabell's corn mill on the Northwest Branch [Shattuck's Brook] for those people living south of Reuben Frizel's."

On February 20th of this year 1781 it was voted "to lay out the undivided lands to each Proprietor in 2 lots of 26 acres each." These lands were chiefly wood lots, and constituted the Fourth Division of Land in the Fall Town Grant. A complete record of the numbers and initial owners of these rugged mountain lots will be found in the town records of this period.

The Year 1782: Though the land fighting between Americans and British had ceased, and the Continental Army was disbanding, the tiny United States Navy, organized in 1779 by John Paul Jones and Benjamin Franklin, still was in evidence.

A small number of private American vessels had been armed to defend the Eastern Seaboard from British naval attack. But these American privateers did not fare too well against the mighty British warships, as the following letters from U. S. midshipman, Stephen Buckland, indicate. Buckland's descendants later settled in Leyden.

The letters are date-lined aboard the prison ship, "Garly" in New York harbor, then controlled by the British. The first was addressed to Capt. Gideon and Aaron Olmstead, probably relatives of Ezekiel Olmstead mentioned in the text.

"April 9, 1782 — Sirs — Before this comes to hand you doubtless will hear of our fate. We were taken on

the 2nd . . . by the Brig "Perseverence" . . . Ezekiel Olmstead is slightly wounded but will be well in a few days . . . If you can do anything for us [we] should be glad . . . Our situation is truly distressin Espechely our people for they were stripped of everything even to Buckles out of their Shoes and Buttons out of their Sleeves, hats, coats and Jackets. Many of them have got Small Pox and must all have it that have not . . . There is on bord this ship about Seven Hundred prisoners and Increasing all most Every day. You can Esely Gess what a life we must live and hot weather a Cuming on . . . This is an Excellent place to prepare a man for Enockelation . . .

Stephen Buckland"

The second letter, his last, was addressed to his wife, Mary Buckland. It was dated "Prison Ship of N. York, April 22nd, 1782." It read:

"My Dear — before this Cums to hand you will doubtless hear of our Misfortune. I have nothing to Right but that we are all well Except some have got the Small pox . . . I hoop it wont be long before we will get home by sum means or other. Give yourself no uneasiness about me . . .

Efectently Stephen Buckland"

On the reverse side of the letter is the notation, written in a child's hand: "May 7, 1782 — Stephen Buckland Dyed in the Prison Ship "Garly" at New York in the 39th year of his age." Below is a list of his children: "Polly, 13; Hannah, 11; Betsy, 3; Ralph, 9 months."

This rare record of one of our first "naval" tragedies concludes with the sad little comment: "When our Daddy Dyed [it was] a time that never will Bee forgot by us, tho we were very young . . ."

The army list of Leyden men who served during the Revolution includes: Simeon Allen; Enoch Briggs, Owen Briggs, Daniel Chapin, Selah Chapin, Daniel Davis, Jabez Dennison, John Evans, Ezekiel Foster, Jr., Samuel Guild, John Hunt, Thomas Hunt, Lt. Reuben Shattuck, Reuben Sheldon, Elijah Walsworth, Records Wilbur, Charles Packer.

Though it had been tentatively voted to divide the Township

into two districts, nothing definite had been done. In January '82, there is evidence of a tendency on the part of eastern Fall Town to hold on to the Leyden area. On the 7th it was voted "that those persons of the Baptist persuasion living in the west part of town should be free from past minister's rates or any part thereof." Further compromise was evidenced at this time when it was proposed that "Town Meetings be held half the time where thought proper in the West Part of town."

But clamor for independence from the west was too strong for these late compromise measures and on March 4th it was voted that "the West Part of Town be separated from the Eastern part." And to show they meant business, the people in Leyden took their first independent step when they proposed that the "town purchase one half Acre of Land either from Lt. Daniel Newcomb or Selah Chapin for a burying place & that Samuel Guild & Lt. Reuben Shattuck be a Committee to determine the particular lot of Ground." Three new roads also were laid out in West Leyden. These, until this time mere bridle paths, were now established town roads. They included the present River Road, Lamb Road and "Capt. Babcock Road."

This was the year Ezekiel Foster, who described the Leyden forests as "tenanted by bear, deer, wolves and panthers," brought his bride to the Beaver Meadow homestead. It was the year of the first recorded marriage in Leyden as "Samuel Guild was wed to Lydia Eson." It was the year, too, that Samuel Ely a former member of the Provincial Congress, sounded the clarion call to the heavily indebted in Leyden and neighboring towns — a call which later roused many in Leyden to take up arms against the unjust courts and debtors' prisons of the day — a call which led eventually to Shays' Rebellion.

The Year 1783: With the Peace Treaty between Britain and the United States signed on April 19th, exactly eight years to a day from the famed Battle of Lexington, the Revolutionary war came to an official end. Though American independence had been won, union and security had not been gained. The people had no definite government to hold them together; they were heavily in debt; business was at a standstill.

This indefinite state of affairs is reflected in the Leyden records. No legislation was passed this year for roads, schools or any public buildings. Bickering continued in the church. Votes, pro and con, were cast for a new preacher.

Leyden residents, voting at this time, included newcomers Reuben Ingram and Calvin Bliss. Others were: Lt. Ezekiel Foster, Israel Bagg, William Orvis and Lt. John Severance. Ens. John Cunnabell, Michael and Reuben Frizzell also voted with the Orthodox churchgoers in 1783; but ten years later, because of unsettled church matters in Leyden, these men, and many others, turned to the renegade preaching of the strange and enigmatic, William Dorril.

It was toward the close of '83 that Captain Jonathan Budington, with his wife, the former Hannah Buckland of Hartford, braved the Leyden Hills. Budington had been a sea Captain in the "West Indian Trade" before the Revolution. Legend says the trade was of the "Jolly Roger" brand; but during the war he was rewarded by the American government for capturing, without much difficulty, a British ship or two.

The war ended, he moved to the Ethan Allen Highway in Leyden. To him, it was still a very wild country which he described in these vivid words: "But few people lived in this wilderness. Here and there the smoke of a log cabin struggled through the thick woods of oak, maple, beech and chestnut. The Indian still lingered, though his dependence on the whites had made him friendly. Deer were plentiful in the woods, and sometimes the wail of a panther would startle the young mother from sleep."

CHAPTER V

The Post War Decade

The Hessian Settlement — Shays' Rebellion

On March 12, 1784, John Hancock, President of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and Samuel Adams, "Father of the Revolution," signed the following into law:

"An act for setting off part of the Town of Bernardston into a District by the name of Leyden: Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled that part of the said Town of Bernardston and the Inhabitants thereof . . . be set off and created into a Separate District by the name of Leyden, and that the said District be invested with all the powers, privileges and immunities that other Towns of this Commonwealth enjoy except that of sending a Representative . . . and be it further enacted that the said District of Leyden shall be annexed to the Town of Bernardston in the choice of a Representative to represent them in the General Court of the Commonwealth and that the said District of Leyden shall pay . . . fifteen thirty sevenths of the county, state and Continental Taxes assessed on said Town of Bernardston, & Leyden District. And be it further enacted that David Smead, Esq. . . . is hereby empowered to issue his Warrant . . . requesting that the Inhabitants in the District of Leyden, qualified by law to vote in Town Affairs, meet at such time and place as shall bee set forth to choose all Officers as shall be necessary to manage the affairs of said District . . . In the House of Representatives 12th March 1784, this Bill having had three several readings passed to be enacted." (See front map for Leyden-Bernardston dividing line).

According to the Bernardston historian, Leyden did not have enough inhabitants at this time to constitute a separate Township, for which "150 ratable polls" were necessary. This may have been true in '84, but within 6 years Leyden had actually outdistanced the parent town (which will be designated as

"Bernardston" from here on) by nearly 300 men, women and children.

On April 26th, the first Leyden Town Meeting was called to order by Captain Caleb Adams at the home of Lieut. Joseph Eson. At this meeting, Alpheus Barstow was chosen clerk; Samuel Guild, treasurer; Captain Agrippa Wells, Charles Packer and Lt. Reuben Shattuck, selectmen and assessors. John Adams was elected constable and collector of taxes.

Following are brief life sketches of these and other pioneer Leyden officers who played important roles in the development of the town and of the Country.

Captain Agrippa Wells, First Selectman. Wells, a veteran of the French and Indian wars, was a captain of Minute Men, fought at Bunker Hill and was at Saratoga when Burgoyne surrendered. After the war, he settled in Leyden where he played an important role in Shays' Rebellion. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1787.

Charles Packer, Second Selectman. A pioneer settler from Rhode Island. As Leyden's "first intellectual," his large private library attracted Henry Kirke Brown whom he encouraged to become an artist. A private cemetery on the Ethan Allan Highway, recently restored, marks Packer's place of burial, and that of his first wife, Mary Walsworth. His second wife was Electa, daughter of Ezra Shattuck, the Dorrilite. Packer himself joined the Dorrilite group.

Lieutenant Reuben Shattuck, Third Selectman. A brother of Ezra, the Dorrilite wooden shoemaker. He served as a lieutenant in Colonel Whitcomb's Regiment and under Capt. Agrippa Wells on the Lexington alarm. He was one of the first Surveyors of Highways in the Leyden District. In 1780, he bought from Michael Frizzell a lot near the foot of "Hunt Hill" for 50 pounds; this was sold in 1787 to Asahel Newton for 200 pounds, indicating he had added many "improvements" to the property during the interim. In 1784, Shattuck was chosen as a selectman at two town meetings! First at the Bernardston March meeting; then at the Leyden April meeting.

Alpheus Barstow, Town Clerk. Barstow, of direct Mayflower stock, came from Norwich, Connecticut. He was a first cousin of Daniel Newcomb, and settled close to him in Beaver Meadow. Aside from town offices, he also held a post in the State Legislature.

Samuel Guild, Treasurer. Guild was a Minute Man in 1775

and was the first to represent Leyden as a "Fall Town" selectman before 1784. His was the first recorded marriage in Leyden District.

Other interesting figures in Leyden at this time were: Hezekiah Newcomb, son of Peter Newcomb and great grandson of Jerusha Bradford. Hezekiah, a cousin of Daniel Newcomb, settled on the Couch Brook Road as early as 1778. Soon after this, his name appears as selectman, then State Representative. In 1784, he purchased from Gersham Orvis the East Leyden lot where the house built by his son Hezekiah Newcomb II, still stands.

Captain Jared Crandall, another colorful Leyden figure, represented the town in many important posts. His huge house on the River Road had the second highest appraisal in the town. The stone work of his "manor" is still as firm as when laid nearly 175 years ago. A deep vaulted wine cellar, with curved stone roof, is a masterpiece of masonry.

To Leyden in 1784 came Reuben Parmenter who settled on Frizzell Hill and later became involved in Shays' Rebellion and the Dorrilite movement. Down the hillside to the west, lived affluent Elisha Burnham, prominent in town affairs, and Representative to the General Court. Two of his daughters married into old Leyden families: Jerusha wedded Selah Chapin of Beaver Meadow; Ruth married Hezekiah Newcomb of Frizzell Hill.

Others who moved into Leyden at this time — men driven from previous settlements by Yorker troubles, poor land, or the spirit of adventure — were Sylvester Crandall from Guilford; John Wells with Desire, his wife, from Springfield, Vt.; Joshua and Polly Niles from Connecticut; Oliver Noyes and family from Guilford; John Demontel from Shelburne; John Moore and family from Palmer; Daniel Edwards from Coventry, Conn.; Solomon Dimmick and Bedgood Bulfish from Enfield, Conn.; Levi Brooks and Thomas Brooks from Guilford; James Philips from Springfield; Benjamin Grinnel from Rhode Island. New settlers came from all directions.

And this year, the first true growing year for Leyden, school matters were seriously considered. In November, it was proposed "to see if the town will agree to divide the town into suitable districts for Schools and to raise money for same." The huge 100-acre school lot on the west side of Frizzell Hill was put up for lease or sale.

Considerable activity was evident in road and bridge building this year, both on the Couch Brook and at the southern approaches to the town. On October 1st, the first Leyden District "highway" was laid out. It ran from the Old Proprietors Road on Frizzell Hill, southward along the west side of Ball Mountain, then down to the Hessian settlement in southeast Leyden. Here it met the Bernardston and Greenfield roads coming in from the east and south. A second road, parallel to, but west of the first, was also laid out at this time. It meandered southward past "Sweetheart's Chair" near what is now the East Glen Road and ended at the Greenfield line.

The year terminated with the dismissal of those in public office who had played in with the King and his henchmen during the Revolution. True patriots were put at the helm of town affairs, with Jason Parmenter, later to become a leader in Shays' Rebellion, elected chief constable. Captain John Adams also was made a member of the constabulary.

The Year 1785: That at least two of Britain's mercenary Hessian soldiers settled in Leyden by 1785 is historic fact. It is also known that these men were part of the Hessian contingent which was locked up in the Bennington meeting house after the famed battle of 1777. One of the Hessians, John Euda, is recorded in the Bernardston History "as a member of Burgoyne's army, by birth a Hessian who settled in Leyden upon the disbanding of the Burgoyne forces."

In the 1785 town records, under "Intentions of Marriage," John Hendrich Euda & Mary Turner, both of Leyden, announced their troth on May 20th. One year later, John Millis, "a Hessian and relative of John Euda," announced his intention to marry Hannah Turner on October 29th.

These two soldiers, John Euda and John Millis (listed as John Odey and John Mellish in the 1790 U. S. census) settled near their one-time adversaries in southeast Leyden. Though these men from the German Province of Hesse may have fought the Americans during the Revolution, they had no voice in the matter, since they and 30,000 of their brothers were sold into the British service by their ruler, the Prince of Hesse.

In the 1790 census, John Euda is listed as living next to the famed William Dorril, so it is likely that Dorril (also a Burgoyne man) first settled in Leyden close to his old companions-in-arms. It is possible too, that Henry Wesen, listed in the 1781 census, may have joined this group.

That the Hessians soon were to become American citizens is proven by a 1789 record dated Dec. 7 when it was voted "to recommend John Euda and John Millis for naturalization." Millis apparently married a second time since the 1798 records mention his betrothal to Abigail Farnsworth on Oct. 2.

Marriage intentions of three daughters, Betsy, Nancy and Sarah Euda were announced between 1811 and 1815. Marriages of the Hessians' sons, David Euda and Isaac Millis were announced soon after. In each instance, the Hessian marriages were with the established English families of: Munn, Haskel, Stanhope, Field, Walker. In the Leyden area, the American "melting pot" began to fuse with the union of the "Eudas" and the "Munns."

On the left of the road leading southward from Leyden is a private burying ground where John Euda (also written Eudy) lies with his wife and son. Though the children were accepted by the community, the Hessians themselves were not buried in the graveyards of the men whom they fought. So it is, these stones stand alone by the roadside. The inscriptions read: John Eudy, d. Aug. 29, 1828 a. 71; Mary d. 1828; Col. David Eudy, d. July 1829 a. 43. Nearby, two other stones read: Lorra, dau. of John Millis; Miss Sally, daughter of John Millis d. 1815 a. 21. This tiny historic burial ground, once shaded by tall white pines, lately was shorn of its beauty by incursions of the relentless chain saw.

While the Hessian settlement was forming in Leyden, activity was evident in many other fields. Along the famous Leyden Glen below the home of Captain Agrippa Wells, a new highway was surveyed; in the west part of town, William Clark, pioneer fruit-grower of the area, put up the first grist mill on Green River. To the north, on Thorn Brook, another mill was rising under the direction of pioneer Henry Thorn.

On the legislative scene, Phineas Crumb was elected tax collector with Reuben Shattuck acting as "surety on behalf of the town." The sum of 3 pounds "surplusage money" was raised to answer "drawbacks" that might be made on the town.

"New" settlers this year of 1785 included Joshua Noyes, his wife and four children, John Burrows and David Dennison who came from Guilford where "Yorker" troubles still were rife. Dennison, grandson of the "Miles Standish of Roxbury," was a victim of Benedict Arnold's earlier burning of New London. In this fire, Dennison lost all his property.

The year concluded with the first town proposal for a public building in Leyden. This article read: "To see if the people will agree to Build a Meetinghouse . . . and if so what measures they will take and where they will sit it."

The Year 1786 — The Beginning of Shays' Rebellion: "The people of Massachusetts," writes D. H. Montgomery in his *American History*, "were more heavily loaded with war debt than those of any other state. On the average, they owed about two hundred dollars apiece. [Equivalent to over \$3,000 today] They were willing to pay, but could not and when great numbers of these poor people were sued and thrown into prison, the multitudes became desperate. In the western part of the state, Daniel Shays raised an army of nearly 2,000 excited farmers. They surrounded the court houses at Worcester and Springfield in an attempt to put a stop to all lawsuits for debt."

This rebellion had loud repercussions in the Leyden hills where Captain Agrippa Wells was soon busy organizing a company to fight the courts under Daniel Shays.

Nor did Leyden's part in the insurrection stop here. On November 4, the question was brought up at a special town meeting "to see what the minds of the people of Leyden is with Regard to the Difficulties and tumults in the State; and to see what they will do . . . in order to regulate them." On November 9, at the "Hous" of Lt. Joseph Esen: "Voted to do something with Regard to the Difficulties and tumults in the State, with Charles Packer, Lt. Joseph Esen and Thomas Brooks a committee to act."

Motions followed, thick and fast. "Voted that we are unsatisfied with the present administration of Government and if any men are called for and turn out in support of our privileges they shall be paid for their time and be supported with Provisions from the Town. Voted that Captain Joseph Esen be a delegate to Represent [us] at the Convention in Hadley the first Tuesday in January next. Voted, Captain Agrippa Wells, Captain Joseph Babcock, Lieut. Solomon Alexander, Lieut. Daniel Newcomb and Lieut. Ezekiel Foster be a Comm. to give Capt. Esen Instructions with regard to the Convention."

This was the Hatfield convention at which it was decided to fight the courts. It soon was followed by 1500 indignant rebels surrounding and stopping court action at Northampton. On December 26, Daniel Shays, one-time Minute Man and officer at Bunker Hill, broke up the courts at Springfield with his rebel

bands. Shays, a native of Hopkinton, was a resident of Shutesbury, Mass. during the early years of the Revolution.

At home, much activity was evident along the Leyden Glen where the first reaches of Leyden Glen Road were completed. The road joined the highway laid out the year before from Frizzell Hill and passed the home of Captain Agrippa Wells which was "near one half mile from the bottom of the hill." At this time Wells was busy organizing men from Leyden, Bernardston and Colrain to fight under Daniel Shays. Apparently the townsmen, in building the new road, wished to give Wells ample manoeuverability!

New residents in Leyden this year included Richard and Patricia Grinnel from Rhode Island, Matthew Severance (son of the Indian fighter) and Nathaniel Carpenter. Carpenter, son of settler of Guilford, entered Leyden via the Ethan Allen Highway. His son David, was later the proprietor of Leyden's "Carpenter Tavern."

It was this year, too, that John Cunnabell, Jr., called "Short John" to distinguish him from "Long John," his Bernardston cousin, married Lydia Stebbins of Deerfield. "Short John," known as a great reader, had a sister Polly who lived with her brother's family all her 80 years. "She never married," history records, "because she was just the right person to be an old maid!"

In West Leyden, a new road was laid out southwestward from the Gates Hill area. It linked the hill farms in the district with Green River and the mills which were there abuilding.

An unusual auction rounded out the year with a "Publick Vendue" held in West Leyden September 4th. Over a dozen lots in the "Gore" were sold to the highest bidder by tax collector, Phineus Crumb "to answer Taxes." Capt. John Adams and Charles Packer bought three lots apiece. Such disposal of property at auction was a novel way to insure back taxes!

The Year 1787 — Conclusion of Shays' Rebellion: The forces under Daniel Shays had continued to gain strength and by January 25th nearly 2000 rebels were under his command. Shays threatened to attack the arsenal at Springfield at this time and was heading up the Boston Road toward this bastion with Capt. Wells' Leyden Company in the forefront, when he came face to face with General Shepard's militia of 1100 trained men. When Shays continued to move toward the arsenal despite orders from Shepard to halt, the militia was ordered to fire.

Four of the insurgents dropped dead on the spot. These were: Jabez Spicer of Leyden; John Hunter of Shelburne; Messrs. Root of Bernardston and Webster of Gill. As the rebels were for the most part unarmed, they turned and hastened toward Ludlow and Pelham where they were intercepted by Federal troops under General Benjamin Lincoln who captured 59 men and nine sleigh loads of rebel provisions. On February 4th, Lincoln overtook the Shays men at Petersham where the snow was waist deep. He drove the insurgent army toward Athol where it disbanded. The officers and Daniel Shays fled to New Hampshire; most of the men retired to their homes.

Captain Matthew Clark and Edward Nelson of Leyden and Colrain were ordered arrested when they returned, but so strong was the feeling for these Shays men, there was talk of lynching the "government men" who threatened the arrests.

In nearby Bernardston, a party of Federal Agents under Benjamin Walker attempted to arrest Captain Jason Parmenter, a "Fall Town" officer in Shays' revolt. Walker overtook Parmenter at night as he attempted escape by sleigh. Both fired simultaneously and Walker was killed. Parmenter escaped to Vermont but was captured next day. He was soon tried, and with another Shays officer, Henry McCulloch of Pelham, sentenced to the gallows.

While preparations were being made at Northampton for the execution, a party of Shays' followers under Colonel Smith of New Salem, made a raid on Warwick, capturing Dr. Medad Pomeroy and Joseph Metcalf. They hoped to detain them as hostages for the lives of Parmenter and McCulloch, but the Warwick prisoners escaped.

The executions were scheduled for June 21st. It is said that Parmenter spent the night before the appointed hour in continuous prayer. All other efforts to save his life seemed to have failed. Several petitions had been filed asking for his pardon. One of these, dated May 11th at Sudbury, the home of his ancestors, was signed by his mother and brothers; another was signed by a "brother-in-arms," Zadoc Briggs of Leyden. Still another was signed by Parmenter himself. "Nothing," wrote the chroniclers, "ever occurred in the Connecticut Valley to cause more poetic effusions."

The appointed morning dawned. At the ceremony before the proposed hanging, it is said the church was so overflowing the sermon had to be preached from a high window so the

crowds outside might hear. On the conclusion of the address, the prisoners were marched solemnly toward the gallows. But just as the rope had been placed in position and the trap was about to be sprung, a horseback rider galloped onto the scene waving a reprieve from Governor Hancock. It is said Jason Parmenter was so overcome with emotion he dropped senseless to the ground and it was some time before he recovered from the shock.

The Captain soon sold his Bernardston property and joined his son, Reuben, in Leyden on what is now the Glabach farm. A few years later, the Shays leader is listed among those who espoused the strange customs of the Dorrilites.

Such uprisings as Shays' Rebellion reflect the disorganized state of the nation which, without a definite form of government threatened to fall apart. The country had no president, no head, with only a Congress destitute of power. "We were like a barrel of thirteen staves, with no hoops to bind us together," writes D. H. Montgomery in his History of the United States.

At last, in June of '87, the Constitutional Convention was held in Philadelphia. George Washington presided over the 55 picked men from all parts of the nation. Among the delegates was Leyden's Captain Agrippa Wells, who only a few weeks before had led a hungry mob against the unjust courts of the land. Wells helped shape the constitution which today stands as a model of perfection.

An especially interesting event in Leyden was the birth of Miss Lephe Gates on November 22nd. Lephe was the daughter of Mary and Peter Gates of West Leyden. She was later to become the mother of John L. Riddell, world-renowned scientist.

During 1787, an "historic" Leyden road was laid out, southwest from the present Dyer farm to the Greenfield line. This road followed what is believed to have been the Indian trail over which the Deerfield captives marched in 1704. The Brattleboro road was extended northward this year "from Caleb Adams' place to the road about 60 rods south of Alpheus Barstow's hous." (See front map.)

The new settlers of this period included John Saunders and family from Rhode Island; Peter Brown, wife and children from Montague and Joseph Ingley from Taunton. The town books say that the newcomers were formally received by Nathaniel Carpenter, Lieut. Reuben Shattuck and Lieut. Daniel Newcomb.

The Year 1788: This was the year the Constitution was adopted and George Washington became a "candidate" for first president of the United States. In the town records for December 3rd the following excerpts bear on the first national elections: "To chose a Representative to Represent this Commonwealth or the County of Hampshire & Berkshire in the Congress of the United States. To chose 2 Electors to sit in Boston for the purpose of choosing a President and Vice President." Agrippa Wells, David Gates and Ezra Shattuck were the Leyden selectmen at this important period.

About this time, Leyden was hit by a disastrous hurricane which leveled thousands of trees, destroyed homes and crops. So serious was the damage it was necessary to "lay the circumstances of the district before the Court to petition for relief." One historian dates this hurricane in 1787, but the following records suggests it was a year later: "Nov. 14, 1788. Voted, to see if the District will allow the Greenfielders the work they did cutting out the Rode in this Town after the Hurricane. Agrippa Wells, David Gates, Selectmen."

Some there were, in view of subsequent Dorrilite "high jinks" who attributed the great disaster of '88 to the wrathful, warning hand of the Almighty!

It was this year of '88 that two of Leyden's pioneer families were joined in marriage. On August 9th Jerusha Newcomb and Charles Hunt were wed at the home of Leyden's first born, Daniel Newcomb.

The Year 1789: With George Washington inaugurated as President, and Congress seated firmly in the Manhattan capital, confidence in the future of the country revived, and general expansion is noted. On March 6th, in Leyden, it was voted "to see if the District agree to Raising money for the Support of Schools . . . and that Jared Crandal, Capt. Agrippa Wells, Job Barstow, Reuben Ingram and Charles Packer be a Comm. to divide the town into School Districts." This, after much controversy, was finally arranged. According to the History of the Connecticut Valley, the sum of fifty pounds was set aside for the support of the five Leyden Schools that year. That was about \$50 for each school for the entire year. There were 300 pupils that year which meant each child was allowed about 83 cents for his education! A glance at the front map shows the approximate location of the original five schools.

Colorful children's names were the rule in Leyden. Glancing

through the birth lists we find the following: Delight, Experience, Content, Freelove, Temperance, Desire, Thankful, Comfort, Mercy, Silence, Consider, Relief, Patience, Preserved, Remembrance, Loving, Increase, Mindwell, Submit, Prudence and Bliss. The parents of these children had such story-book names as: Ezra Plumb, Billington Crumb, Jonathan Budington, Jared Crandal, Agrippa Wells and Bedgood Bullfish.

It is noted that a father often gave his son the surname of his favorite neighbor. Thus, Oliver Babcock living near Elisha Clark might name his son, Clark Babcock; or Joseph Walsworth living near Solomon Alexander would name his son Alexander Walsworth.

In 1789, the River Road was extended northward from the home of "Amos Nois to the Guilford line." A Bridle Road or Drift Way also was laid out "beginning at the East side of the Road near the Schoolhouse where Mr. Peleg Babcock & Mr. Phineus Crumb's land joins, running southeast to the Road that goes between Mr. Humphrey Palmers and Matthew Clarks." This was the West Leyden Road between the Cemetery Hill and "Snow's Corner." The survey suggests that the first West Leyden schoolhouse was near the old blacksmith shop on the Babcock place. (See front map for location of Palmer, Clark, etc.)

During the year it was voted "to see if the District will pay Lt. Joseph Eson in Gold for being a Shasemite at Northampton." Evidently Leyden held to its bargain of upholding the Daniel Shays rebels. The use of the word, Shasemite, in this record never has been found elsewhere.

The year concludes with this unique note: "Voted, that the People should have the liberty to Dig up their Dead which are scattering about and Bury them in the new Burying yard." (Beaver Meadow)

The Year 1790: Between 1790 and 1820, Leyden approached the peak of its early development. During these three decades Leyden produced two of its greatest men (John L. Riddell and Henry K. Brown), the Dorrilites flourished and the population figure reached a high point.

The first decade, perhaps the most colorful in Leyden's history, began quietly. Seventeen ninety was the year of the first U. S. census. This showed Leyden had a total population of 989 or three times that of 1781. At this time, the parent town had only 691 inhabitants.

A break-down of the Leyden 1790 census reveals the town had 150 houses; 155 families; 208 males over 16; 298 males under 16; 481 females; and 2 "other," probably negro slaves.

It will be noted in the following list from the official census that the names are not arranged alphabetically, but geographically, so from the location on the list one may form a general idea of where any specific person lived in Leyden during the 1790. period. The first number after a name indicates the males over 16 in the family; the second number, males under 16; and the third number, total females in the family. The original spelling on the census list is followed throughout:

Frizzell Hill Area: John Conable, 2-1-4; Sam'l Conable, 1-none-4; Capt. Mich. Frizzle, 1-1-2; Asa Wells, 1-3-3; Reuben Frizzle, 3-1-5; Joshua Wells, 1-2-1; Israel Bagg, 1-2-5; John Evans, 3-none-2; Gersham Orvis, 1-3-4; Wm. Orvis, 1-none-2; Wm. Orvis, Jr., 1-1-2; Ezra Shattuck, 1-5-3; Reuben Parmenter, 1-2-3; Ner Wells, 1-4-3; Benj. Grinnel, 1-1-3.

Hessian Area and South Leyden: Jesup Bennet, 3-1-5; John Todd, 1-5-2; John Wilds, 2-none-1; Zenas Kent, 2-1-3; Josiah Green, 1-4-3; Reuben Ingram, 1-1-3; William Dorril, 1-2-4; John Odey (Eudy), 1-1-3; Clement Smith, 1-none-3; Thos. Whiting, 1-none-1; John Mellish (Mellis), 1-none-3; Zadok Briggs, 1-2-4; Thos. Rose, 1-3-3; Charles Stearns, 1-2-3; Israel Bullock, 1-3-4; Moses Allis, 1-1-2; Abrhm Edwards, 2-4-3; Reuben Wells, 2-3-2; Jos. Crowfoot, 2-none-1; Jos. Crowfoot, Jr., 1-1-2; Noah Downs, 1-2-2.

Beaver Meadow and Alexander Road Area: Asahel Newton, 1-3-4; Simeon Allen, 1-3-3; Ezekiel Foster, 1-4-3; Daniel Chapin, 1-3-5; Jacob Holt, 1-none-1; Benjamin Morgan, 1-2-2; Simion Eldridge, 1-none-4; Joshua Wells, 1-none-1; Selah Chapin, 2-3-5; John Hunt, 1-1-2; David Page, 1-3-6; Reuben Sheldon, 1-4-3; Elijah Adams, 2-5-2; John Barns, 2-1-6; Lieut. Daniel Newcomb, 1-2-5; Samuel Guild, 1-2-5; Dan'l Coolidge, 1-2-5; John Saunders, 1-2-5; Joseph Easton (Eson), 1-1-5; Job Vester, 1-2-2; [Alpheus Barstow, 1-?-?] Jos. Jules, 1-2-1; Joshua Newcomb, 1-3-2; Charles Hunt, 1-1-1; Wm. Burrows, 1-none-2; David Dennison, 1-2-2; Moses Fish, 1-4-2; Lt. Solomon Alexander, 1-3-3.

Ethan Allen Highway-North and West Leyden: Amos Walsworth, 1-none-2; Elisha Brown, 4-1-5; Verdies Allen, 1-1-2; Jas. Wetman, 1-3-5; Oliver Noyes, 1-3-2; Capt. Jos. Babcock, 4-none-4; Jos. Clark, 2-1-4; David Davis, 1-3-4; Jedediah Freeman, 1-4-3; Jos. Marshal, 1-3-4; David Brown, 1-3-4; Elijah Walworth, 1-3-3;

Nathanl Avery, 1-2-2; Job Babcock, 1-2-3; Henry Thorn, 1-2-2; Peter Gates, 1-2-5; Billington Cromb, 1-2-5; Dea. Benj. Baker, 1-4-2; Cap. Jared Crandal, 4-3-4; Henry Burdick, 1-1-1; Elijah Baker, 1-3-2; Chas. Stuart, 1-1-3; Jonathan Richardson, 3-3-5; Phinehas Cromb, 1-4-6; Peleg Babcock, 2-5-3; Oliver Babcock, 3-4-4; Clark Babcock, 1-none-1; Elisha Crandal 1-none-1; Robert Crandal, 1-none-5; John Eaton, 1-2-2; Jabez Edwards, 1-2-3; Alpheus Vester, 1-2-6; Charles Parker (Packer), 2-1-2; David Gates, 1-4-6; Frederic Stoddard, 1-1-2; Wm. Clark, 2-1-4; Peleg Brown, 3-4-5; Mascon Babcock, 1-none-1; Elisha Clark, 1-2-4; Paul Green, 1-2-2; Humphry Palmer, 1-4-4; Matthew Clark, 1-1-2; David Potter, 1-4-5; Philemon Stedman, 1-none-4; Eldr. Jos. Green, 3-1-3.

Ethan Allen Highway-South; Old & New Centers: Jos. Elliot, Esqu., 1-2-4; Uriah Welber (Wilbur), 2-1-8; John Welber 1-none-2; Record Welber, 1-none-1; Lemuel Elliot, 1-none-1; Sam'l Guild, Jr., 2-1-4; Joseph Warren, 1-2-3; Jos. Knapp, 1-6-1; James Phillips, 1-2-4; Jos. Ingley, 1-1-1; Richard Gunneis (Grinnel?), 1-1-7; Sam'l Hawkins, 1-none-3; Henry Wessen, 1-3-4; John Vining, 1-5-1; Eliph't Carpenter, 1-none-2; Enoch Briggs, 2-none-4; Owen Briggs, 2-2-1; Richard Easton (Eson), 2-4-6; John Easton, 1-4-2; Thos. Crowfoot, 3-none-3; James Crowfoot, 1-2-1; Matthew Severance, 2-none-4; James Fuller, 1-3-1; Matthew Severance, Jr., 2-4-2; Uriah Bush, 1-1-4; Capt. John Adams, 1-2-7; Caleb Adams, 1-3-2; John Kelley, 1-3-4; Andrew Henry, 1-1-2; Amaz'h Hawkins, 1-1-5; John Downing, 1-5-2; Nathaniel Carpenter, 2-2-3; Moses Tinney, 2-none-1; Capt. Jonathan Budington, 1-1-2; Thomas Wells, 1-2-5; Capt. Agrippa Wells, 3-1-3; John Caswell, 2-3-4; Eben. Bliss, 3-1-1; John Bulfinch, 1-3-4; Jona. Spicer, 1-1-1; Abigail Spicer, none-1-3; John Moor, 2-1-2; John Moor, Jr., 1-3-3; John Crowfoot, 1-2-1; Peter Brown, 1-1-5.

To the north of Leyden, over the Guilford line, Royall Tyler, already famous as America's first outstanding playwright, soon was to dip his pen and begin his "Algerine Captive," the first U. S. novel to be reprinted in England. A namesake of the famous author was born in Leyden during this period, and a cousin, Peter Tyler, owned large tracts on Frizzell Hill during the last decade of the eighteenth century.

The Year 1791: This year, the year the neighboring Republic of Vermont officially joined the Union, found Leyden active politically also. It opened with a town meeting called by

Charles Packer to "vote for Governor, Lieut. Governor and Senator." The perennial question of a bridge over the Deerfield River was raised and it was voted to send a Committee to join Committees in adjacent towns "to consider the matter." The first Justice of the Peace was chosen in Leyden at this time and a pound "thirty foot square," proposed.

A number of interesting roads were laid out including the road down the west side of Frizzell Hill, just as it runs straight down the mountain today; a road to John Matthews' mill pond from the present Snow Corner; and a road "running northeast past Jared Crandals and Henry Burdicks . . . to the drift-way leading by Elisha Clarks near the Hollow Schoolhouse." It was at this time that the road running northwest to the new center also was laid out.

Each landowner was the recipient of a special road tax every year. This was usually worked out with each "Poll" contributing two days' work on the highways in June and one day toward the middle of October. A very quaint touch bearing on early roads was found in the town books: "Voted, if necessary to call upon the Town in Winter to path the snow." This may refer to the old custom of smoothing the snow with huge wooden rollers, or to the more primitive method of treading the snow with teams of oxen.

Robert Riddle, grandfather of the Leyden scientist, is listed this year as a "sealer of leather." He saw to it that hides were properly tanned and cured. A road record of this period places Riddle's house in West Leyden on the old Ianthe Cook place. (See front map for location of this homestead.)

The first official record of the Davenport family in Leyden appears September 28 when the birth of a daughter to Oliver and Lucy Davenport is recorded. Oliver was the ancestor of Charles M. Davenport, trustee of Williams College. Jacob Eddy, later to become one of William Dorril's followers, also appears on the Leyden horizon in '91.

The Year 1792: This year found Leyden, like most northern New England towns, growing by leaps and bounds, with road building one of the chief activities. In this connection, the name Dorril appears on the town books for the first time, and helps locate the famed preacher's early headquarters. The reference appears in the location notes for the East Hill Road which "began at the head of Samuel Cunnables milpond and ran southeasterly to the land of Wm. Dorril and to the road passing

by Ezra Shattuck's, a little north of his house." This road ran between the Keets Brook and Hunt Hill thoroughfares and placed Wm. Dorril's lot near the top of the hill. A recommendation was passed in November "to establish a Road beginning at the Bridge at the head of Samuel Cunables Milpond, Westwardly to the turn near the upper Sawmill dam." This was the section of the Keets Brook Road running from the mill site to the top of the hill near the present home of Edric Cook. A third evidence of growth was in the building of the road linking "The Meadow" with "Beaver Meadow." It passed near the homesteads of Uriah Wilbur, Thomas Rose, Daniel Chapin and Asahel Newton. Zig-zagging up the mountain from the "Dennison Mill on the East Bank of Green River" a roadway was laid out from the mill site formerly owned by Indian fighter, William Clark.

The Year 1793: The following interesting town meeting preamble is dated at Leyden, April 17th: "In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Greeting: To Simeon Aldrich, Constable, you are Required to Notify and Warn the male inhabitants of the District of Leyden being Twenty-one years of age and Resident in said Town for the space of one year . . . having a freehold Estate within said Town of the annual income of Three Pound, or any other estate to the Value of sixty pound, to meet at John Burk's, Innholder . . . on Monday the sixth day of May at two of the clock in the afternoon and there to join with the Inhabitants of Bern. in the choice of a Delegate to represent the District of Leyden, and the town of Bernardston in the General Court — Ezra Shattuck, David Gates, Richard Eson, Selectmen of Leyden."

Early in the year, the question of permitting smallpox inoculation in Leyden was brought before the people. Finally, in April, it was "voted not to license Inoculation with the Smallpox in the District, but to choose a Comm. to Superintend the matter of the smallpox." Elisha Brown (father of the sculptor, H. K. Brown), Simeon Allen and Reuben Sheldon were selected for the above purpose. The question of inoculation is found in the town books as early as 1771 and 1777 when Dr. Policarpus Cushman, Fall Town's early "Pilgrim" doctor, brought the inoculation question before the people.

In 1793, William Dorril is mentioned as living near the eastern side of the Frizzell Hill school district. This reference helps confirm the location of his first "preaching" Leyden home,



Earliest Known Map of Leyden — 1794

about which full details will be given in the Dorril story soon to follow.

The Year 1794: Preparing for any and all emergencies, it was voted at this time to "procure a Town Stock of Ammunition." This was later stored in the Meetinghouse; but whether under the Pulpit or not, as in Deerfield, has not been ascertained!

The 1794 map on p. 85 is the first known outline of Leyden and was ordered drawn up June 20th. The legend is as follows: "A map of the Town of Leyden in the County of Hampshire, taken pursuant to a Resolve of the Gen. Court of this Commonwealth — protracted by a scale of two hundred rods to an Inch after an actual survey made and completed in November last." Complete minutes of the town survey follow. The legend goes on to explain that "S.M." stands for Saw Mill; that "C.M." stands for Corn Mill and adds that "the reputed distance from the center of said Leyden to the "Shire Town" of the County [Northampton] is 29 miles & from the Metropolis of the Commonwealth, 117 miles — Caleb Chapin, Surveyor."

Though a bit crude, this map not only shows the location of Ethan Allen Highway (County Road), but also gives the location of Cunnabell mills in the northeast, Corse's mill in the south, Clark's mill on lower Green River and Richardson's mills near the present West Leyden bridge.

It was this year that road building came to a climax with Eden Trail Road linking Bernardston and Leyden "from Consider Chapins at the North end of the road leading from Hales saw-mill to the road running from Capt. Frizels in Leyden." A road was laid out from Edward Nelson's lot, southward from Frizzell Hill; adjustments were made in the Beaver Meadow Road near Daniel Newcomb's farm; there is mention of a road northeast of the present Glabach farm to the "Asa Wells lot." In fact, by 1794 the main roads of the town had been built and sixty pounds (a large sum for those days) was raised for upkeep of these highways.

It was this year that Hezekiah Newcomb, Sr. "sold" to his son the Newcomb place in East Leyden. The deed reflects the kindly character of the elder Newcomb. It reads: "For and in consideration of the natural affection & love I bear my son, Hezekiah of Leyden . . . " and goes on to describe the lands and buildings which Hezekiah Newcomb, Jr. acquired.

So it was that the Pilgrim descendant of William Bradford entered the Leyden hills and took over the house which was to

shelter officers of the State, artists and writers — a house which was to become a center of the strange Dorrilite gatherings of the 1790's.

CHAPTER VI

The Dorrilite Years

It was in 1790 that the one-time redcoat, William Dorril, first appeared in Leyden near the Hessian settlement. In 1792, he is found on the northern slopes of Frizzell Hill where a son, Luther, was born on November 11th. As far as can be determined, it was about this time Dorril had his first "vision" and began to express his strange religious ideas. There was no orthodox church in Leyden. The Elder Joseph Green had a small Baptist following in West Leyden, but lacking a place of worship, his parishioners met in private homes, in barns, in groves and under a great granite column known as Meeting-house Rock. Hardy folk of the Congregational faith journeyed many miles to the Bernardston church. Lacking a central spiritual focus, it is little wonder that the impressive William Dorril made such surprising progress within the religious vacuum which existed in the East Leyden hills.

This Dorril was a giant of a man, we are told. Six feet five inches tall; he weighed nearly 300 pounds. His manner was commanding, yet friendly, his eye quick and penetrating, his forehead full. Unable either to read or write, he nevertheless possessed a remarkable memory and could repeat long passages of the Bible after once hearing them read.

The Leyden "Messiah" was born in Yorkshire, England on March 15, 1752. Early in life he joined the British army and served during three campaigns in Ireland. At the outbreak of the American Revolution, he took ship for our shores under General Burgoyne. In 1777, at Saratoga, he was taken prisoner. Released from captivity in 1780, he soon married Polly Chase of Petersham, a girl ten years his junior. He then removed to Warwick where in 1781 he purchased of Ephraim Robins "for 7 pounds, ten shillings" a 50-acre lot. During the next eight years he moved between Warwick and Northfield where five of his children were born.

Careful study of old deeds and town records have led to the discovery of the actual site of Dorril's first preaching home in Leyden — a spot on the north side of Frizzell Hill overlooking the Vermont landscape. It was near this site that the first "revelation" came to him while chopping wood. It was here

that a voice, "coming from the Heavens," thundered, "Render yourself a fitting sacrifice."

The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association papers record that Dorril's first success as a preacher began about 1794; that gaining a few followers, his strange doctrines spread from neighborhood to neighborhood; that a large number of respected citizens were attracted to him and cast in their lot with one they believed to be a humanitarian leader.

With smooth and magnetic address, Dorril first preached that all days were holy; that there should be no Sundays; that no one should cause the death of any living creature. This latter principle was so strictly enforced that Dorrilites could not eat the flesh or use the skins of animals for domestic purposes. They could not wear leather shoes or use harnesses made of leather. Most Dorril followers, therefore, wore large wooden shoes made by Ezra Shattuck, a staunch member of the sect. Harnesses were made of rope; cloth was woven from flax. The story goes that one Dorrilite, a blacksmith, tried to dodge the law by covering his bellows with leather which, in turn, he then covered with painted cloth.

To set the stage for the unprecedented events which were to follow, it might be well to picture the location of the East Leyden homesteads where the Dorrilites lived, held property in common and "worshipped" in their peculiar way.

As we have intimated, the nucleus of the Dorrilite clan lived in the Frizzell Hill area. This included the upper Couch Brook, all of "East Hill" and the upper section of Eden Trail which Dorril probably named. According to historian Kellogg of Bernardston, the following pioneers were members of the Dorrilite sect: John Cunnabell, Sr., Reuben Frizzel and John Cunnabell, Jr. on the upper Couch Brook; Michael Frizzel, Ezra Shattuck, Reuben Parmenter and Jason Parmenter at the head of Couch Brook; Joshua Wells, Reuben Sheldon, Ner and Asa Wells, on the north slope of Frizzell Hill; John Evans and Zenas Frizzel, on the northeast slope; Hezekiah Newcomb, Jr., his wife, the former Ruth Burnham and David Potter, on the Old Proprietor's Road. In Beaver Meadow: Elisha Burnham, Amos Burrows, David Paige, Jedediah Fuller and John Dixon are listed as Dorril followers, while scattered members, doubtless ten times the number named above, include the Messrs. Dewey, Eddy, Philips, Stearns, etc., etc.

It should be noted here that the old spelling of the Dorrilite

leader's name is used in this text as found in the old record books. Hence, we write "Dorril" rather than the modern spelling, "Dorrell."

Though it has long been rumored that Dorrill lived during his preaching days in Bear's Den Cave just off the Keets Brook Road, the story is without foundation. Recent clues indicate he actually lived just off the north side of Leyden's Frizzell Hill. An authentic record of his first preaching habitat was found in a Franklin Registry deed dated December 4, 1798. This deed proves that Reuben Parmenter, son of Captain Jason Parmenter, then living on the present John Glabach property, "sold to Wm. Dorril for \$100., 20 acres, part of Lot 83, 1st Division, beginning at the SW Corner at a pile of stones on a Ledge." Lot 83 was carefully checked on the original plans of the town and after thorough study, it was clear that the Dorril lot lay along the upper part of the present East Hill Road. In fact, a shallow cellar hole was discovered on the piece, and within 5 rods of the house site, a woodland spring, cut in ledge rock, was found.

It is likely that Dorril tenanted this piece of land on a rental basis from 1792 (when road records indicate his residence was on this piece) to 1798, the date of the Parmenter deed. The preacher was a roving planet, however, and a year after buying from Parmenter he sold the lot to Ezra Shattuck and bought a 14-acre piece at the foot of Hunt Hill. This may have been a move to bring him closer to "the center of Dorrilite operations" which by 1799 had shifted from Frizzell Hill to Beaver Meadow. This location was near the southwest corner of Lot 30, 3rd Division, or close to the present Smith farm. In 1800, toward the close of his "reign," Dorril sold all but 3 acres of this lot to Shattuck, and in 1801, sold the remainder.

Little, if anything remains of the houses in which Dorril himself may have lived. One possible remnant is the east wing of the John Glabach house. This may have been moved from the Dorril foundation near the woodland spring. It is about 24 feet wide and 30 feet long. Judging by the late 18th Century construction and its proximity to the original Dorril home site, it may well be the long-sought Leyden home of the renegade preacher.

Successful in attracting a large following, Dorril's religious imagination soared. He now taught that every generation had its Messiah; that he was the Messiah of his generation; that he

had been raised from a state of sin to spiritual life and had become perfect. He could therefore do no evil, was no longer responsible to civil law, was beyond all principalities and powers, and no arm of flesh could harm him. He believed that since his body was in absolute obedience to the spirit, his followers were, therefore, relatively perfect in a spiritual sense. To top all, he maintained that he stood precisely in the same position as Jesus Christ — spirit united with human flesh.

The above is the substance of "A Confession of Faith" reported by the Reverend John Taylor of Deerfield in an August 1798 issue of the Franklin Gazette. Taylor condemned Dorril's doctrines when it was disclosed at an interview with the "Messiah" that when a husband and wife become "perfect" through Dorrilism, the parties were no longer holden to each other, in a physical sense.

This admission helped lay bare the muddled principles and sensationalistic character of the Dorrilite sect. Though Dorril set out with high ideals which embodied the early practice of vegetarianism in this country, he allowed these ideals to degenerate. Unable to hold his followers without the introduction of flashy and novel devices, his meetings are said to have become wilder and wilder, often punctuated by "scenes of bacchanalian songs and bawdy addresses." During these gatherings he often called on the assistance of a black fiddler, Jack, who was possessed, Dorril boasted, "of both ignorance and cunning."

Meanwhile, alarmed by the practices of the Dorrilite followers, churchgoers of the town busied themselves with plans for a Meetinghouse. Action was stalled on this project for nearly two years, probably through opposition of the Dorrilites, but in 1796 a building "46 ft. long by 36 ft. wide with 2 good convenient stories" was approved by town vote. Four months later, however, this vote was shelved. The Dorrilite hold was further strengthened at this time when Elder Joseph Greene, pastor of the Leyden Baptist flock, passed away leaving his parishioners in the west part of town without a spiritual leader.

In 1798, the Dorrilites were at the height of their popularity, but after the publication of the Taylor interview, they began to lose favor. In an attempt to keep his flock together, Dorril tried to convince them of his growing greatness. He posed as a martyred saint — a holy man — when in reality he was wandering farther and farther from that wholeness or holiness which

only a life of renunciation can attain. In his desperation to hold his audience, he proclaimed more loudly than ever his supernatural powers — an illusion bolstered up by "spirits" anything but holy.

The final meeting of the sect which occurred in 1800, is described as follows in the Vermont Gazetteer: "At length, a goodly number of his followers having assembled, Dorril opened with music and then began his discourse. Among the spectators was Captain Ezekiel Foster of Beaver Meadow — a man of giant frame and a countenance that bespoke authority. When Dorril uttered the words: 'No man of flesh can harm me,' Foster rose, and stretching forth his brawny arm, felled the prophet . . . and threatened to strike again if he did not renounce his faith. This Dorril was compelled to do under threat of violence. His followers quickly departed, and Dorril himself was made to promise that his own life should pay the penalty of future preaching."

Though he did not preach again, there is evidence that in futile, even ludicrous ways, he tried to "come back." One story goes that the "Messiah" tried to demonstrate his ability to walk on water. But the planks he had carefully laid just below the surface in the mill pond, were removed unbeknown to the prophet, so when he stepped forth where the planks should have been, he fell headlong into the watery deep. Another story tells of his conniving with one of Leyden's leading Dorrilite citizens to do away with Captain Foster. An ingenious "murder machine" was developed by the ex-Dorrilites, but Foster, warned of the trap, escaped by a hair's breadth.

Defeated and in disgrace, William Dorril retired to a remote section of West Leyden on the old Joseph Clark place. Here, in 1834, Lt. Gov. Cushman found the old man "living in a smoky house, situated far from the travelled road, remote from human residence." Cushman recounts that the household furniture consisted of a table, loom, bed and two chairs. He adds that Dorril was then 82 years of age, lived alone and had remarkably good health. Although the old man had no followers at the time, he thought some of the old Dorrilites still clung to his religion, though they did not publicly acknowledge it. This may have been true in some instances, but a number of prominent Dorrilites, including Amos Burrows, pointedly joined the established church shortly after the Dorrilite debacle.

When asked why he set up a religion of his own, and of such a revolutionary character, Dorril said "he wanted to see

how far he could go with those people." Though he undoubtedly initiated his religious doctrines with genuine intentions, subsequent conflicts with the established church with resulting frustrations, embittered him; and being a Britisher whose King only a few years before had been soundly beaten by the hardy Yankees, he took the opportunity to "strike back."

William Dorril spent the last 45 years of his life in retirement. He died August 26, 1846, aged 94. It is said he literally starved himself to death, saying he was old enough; that "if he continued to eat, he might live forever." He was buried in the Beaver Meadow cemetery beside his wife. Today, above his grave where the American flag waves on Memorial Day, a simple stone is inscribed: "William Dorrell, a Soldier of the Revolution."

Taking a long view of Dorril's preaching, he seems to stand out as more than a religious trickster. The fact that Rep. Hezekiah Newcomb, Charles Packer, Capt. Michael Frizzell and many other leading citizens of the area espoused his early teachings, suggests that the British soldier from Yorkshire had something real to say, at least when he began to preach. And Dorril's influence, it is said, spread far beyond the confines of Leyden. There are those who credit him with strong influence in the Mormon movement which got under way soon after the Dorrilites had retired from the scene of action.

The Years 1795-1800 in Review: During this period, while Dorrilism flourished and waned, John Adams had become President of the country. By 1797, to the popular tune of "Hail Columbia," Americans were backing the new leader in a war against our former ally, France. To raise the necessary funds, Congress voted to impose a direct tax on all personal property. The following list of Leyden tax payers, procured from the vault of the New England Historical Society in Boston, includes those with buildings valued over \$100, and in a separate list, those with buildings valued under \$100. If one multiplies each valuation by 20, some idea of today's comparative values may be gleaned. Reference to the front map and the 1790 census list will help locate the residences of citizens named.

Nathaniel Avery (2 houses) \$150 and \$350; Jonathan Budington, \$650; Ezra Babcock (on J. Budington) \$250; Esther Bliss, \$110; Peter Bliss, \$350; Consider Bardwell, \$150; Oliver Babcock, \$600; Israel Bullock, \$230; Uriah Bush, \$110; Henry Burdick, \$175; Peleg Babcock, \$450; Benj. Baker, \$125; James Babcock,

\$200; Elisha Brown, \$175; Amos Burrows, \$250; Enock Briggs, \$350; Paul Babcock, \$150; Alpheus Barstow, \$300; Julius Chapin, \$150; Consider Chapin, \$110; Nathaniel Carpenter, \$300; Phineus Crumb, \$150; Jared Crandell, \$450; David Clark, \$120; Selah Chapin (2 houses) \$110 and \$150; A. Hebard, \$200; Matthew Clark, \$125; Elisha Clark, \$200; John Corse, \$250; John Downing, \$120; David Dennison, \$350; Edward Dennison, \$125; Jas. Esen, \$200; Richard Esen, \$225, Ezekiel Foster, \$125; J. Field, \$110; Reuben Frizzell, \$250; Michael Frizzell, \$125; Lemuel Foster, \$200; Richard Grinnell, \$230; David Gates, \$180; Paul Green, \$175; Peter Gates, \$150; Benj. Green, Jr., \$300; Ezekiel Fitch (on Benj. Green, Jr.), \$110; Andrew Henry, \$270; H. Hawkins, \$125; Charles Hunt, \$450; Nathaniel Hastings, \$110; John Hunt, \$280; Reuben Ingram, \$280; Paul Kenyon, \$150; John Kately, \$200; Benj. Shelton, \$125; Sq. Maxwell, \$250; Oliver Noyes, \$200; Asahel Newton, \$200; J. Olmsted, \$110; David Potter, \$460; Charles Packer, \$175; J. Richardson, \$200; M. Severance, \$200, P. Stedman, \$225; Reuben Sheldon, \$110; J. Shepardson, Jr., \$460; Thomas Wells, \$350; Robert West, \$110; Uriah Wilbur, \$225. The total assessed valuation of the above 70 buildings covering 35 acres and 80 perches of land was \$15,905.

Buildings under \$100 Valuation: Simeon Allen, \$80; Elijah Adams, \$10; J. Budington, \$70; Bedgood Bulfinch, \$5; Benj. Ball, \$30; John Cunnabell, \$50; D. Clark, \$30; Wm. Clark, \$50; Daniel Cooledge, \$80; J. Cunnabell, Jr., \$60; Samuel Cunnabell, \$80; William Dorril, \$50 (with 20 acres of land, total valuation \$350); John Euda, \$60; Benj. Eddy, \$80; Zenas Kent, \$20; John Millis, \$60; Benj. Morgan, \$30; Edward Nicholson, \$60; Edward Nelson, \$80; Abel Perry, \$60; Reuben Parmenter, \$80; Theodore Page, \$70; Henry Rounds, \$40; Eleanor Stearns, \$60; Mat. Severance, \$80; Henry Thorn, \$80; Ruel Willard, \$50; Jonathan Wild, \$50; Amos Walsworth, \$40. Total valuation of the above 33 dwelling houses was under \$1600! The valuation of the 10,900 acres of Leyden land was put at \$120,848 at the time this tax list was completed, March 14, 1799. It was signed by Hezekiah Newcomb, Jr. who represented the town of Leyden. Because some of the house valuations are extremely low, and the names of some prominent citizens are missing from the list, it is possible that "adjustments" were made in certain "political" instances.

The closing years of the 18th century found the Leyden Meetinghouse well established on the County Road opposite the Carpenter Tavern. The first official town meeting was held in

the new building on March 5, 1798. Nearby, a neatly painted signpost directed stagecoach traffic to all points of the compass: North, to Guilford and Southern Vermont; south, to Deerfield, Springfield and Hartford; west, to Colrain and Albany; east, to Bernardston, Athol and Boston.

Within the Meetinghouse, questions regarding new roads and schools, the "fox menace," location of West Leyden's "Burying Hill", and other local problems were the order of the day as Leyden, boasting a population of nearly 1100 hardy pioneers, ushered in the first days of the 19th Century.

The Years 1800-1801: An extremely interesting aggregate list of Leyden's production figures during the Jeffersonian period was unearthed in the State House vault. The list also includes poll tax figures, number of mills, barns, etc. — figures not given in the Federal Tax document of 1798-99.

Dwelling houses	96
Barns	81
Shops	6
Pots Pearl Ash Works	1
Grist Mills	2
Saw Mills	4
Misc. Buildings	40
Bushels Oats Raised (1801)	930
Bushels Wheat Raised (1801)	817
Bushels Rye Raised (1801)	678
Bushels Indian Corn Raised (1801)	7560
Tons Hay	1154
Oxen	134
Barrels Cider	217
Upland Mowing	949 acres
Pasturage	1791 acres
Unimprovable	1285 acres
Woodland	1855 acres
Unimproved	3806 acres
<hr/>	
Total Acreage	10,840 acres

Two hundred and three Leyden poll taxes were paid in 1801. Of these, 45 are listed in the 16 to 21 age category; 127 are in the adult group; and 31 polls were "paid by Town." The total was fifty-three more than the 150 needed to constitute a township.

Interesting local events during 1801, the year Leyden reached a peak population figure, include the first recording of a town charge, the marriage of three of William Dorril's daughters, and the introduction of the first town hearse. Safeguarding their property should it be blown sky-high, it was voted that "the Proprietors of the Meetinghouse be indemnified for the stock of gun powder being stored in said house."

The Years 1802-1806: With the expansion of the country through the Louisiana Purchase, temptations to migrate from the eastern hill towns westward "where the grass was greener" became more and more inviting.

For the time being, however, Leyden held her own. In fact, the advent of the new pastor, Asa Hebard, and the dissolution of the Dorrilite clan, helped swing the pendulum in the "growing" direction. Leyden took part in new legislation regarding choice of electors for President and Vice President; steps were taken to send representatives to Northampton to help form the new county of Franklin; plans were made for a permanent bridge over Green River "near Richardson's Mills"; the Alexander Road was completed and adopted by the town.

During this period, Captain Jonathan Budington's children began to appear in the Leyden records. It is interesting to note that the captain's second son was named for the ill-fated sailor, Stephen Buckland, who perished on the prison ship, *Garly*, in New York harbor. At this time, too, the prominent Mowry and Miner families appeared in Leyden. The children of Amos Burrows, one-time treasurer of the Dorrilite group, also are recorded in the town books during this period. In 1802, the marriage of Elijah Brown to Rhoda Childs of Deerfield stands out. Of immediate interest, however, is the 1806 record of the marriage intentions of "Leafe Gates of Leyden to John Riddle of Colrain."

The Career of John Leonard Riddell: Inventor, Botanist, and Doctor of Medicine It was in 1787 that Lephe Gates, daughter of Peter and Mary Gates, was born in West Leyden in a house nearly opposite the Henry Thorn up-and-down saw mill. Lephe grew up on her father's farm which was close to a side road leading to a Green River fordway. And it was near this fordway that Lephe was courted by John Riddle, son of Robert Riddle whose fine Scotch-Irish ancestry could be traced back to the 8th century. It was in the West Leyden area, on February 20, 1807, that John L. Riddle (later written Riddell) was born.

It was doubtless during his long walks to and from the "Hollow Schoolhouse" that young John, later to become an outstanding American botanist, first became interested in wild flowers. Fringed gentians, yellow orchids and virgin's bower grew in profusion near the school, and we may be sure the incipient scientist lost no time in identifying these, and dozens of other native wild plants — even as a youngster.

After graduating from the local school, he entered the Dutch-founded institution of Rensselaer College in Troy, N. Y. Soon after receiving his diploma, he began lecturing, and in 1835 was given a professorship in botany and chemistry at the Cincinnati Medical College. It was from this college he received his "M.D." At this time, too, he wrote and published the pioneer botany of the then "far west." It was entitled "A Synopsis of the Flora of the Western States."

Prior to this time, in 1826, Riddell had begun his personal journal consisting of comments on aeronautics, philosophy, physics, geology, and "personal items of the romantic deeds of his youth." According to the director of libraries at Tulane University (where Riddell later taught) this journal, now in the possession of Tulane, covers the scientist's residence periods in the West and South. Interesting references to Summer visits to Leyden also are included in the journal. In 1836, Dr. Riddell accepted a post as chemistry professor at the Louisiana Medical College (now Tulane University). Soon after, President Van Buren appointed Riddell chief melter and refiner at the New Orleans mint.

As a result of his research in bacteriology, Riddell invented, about 1844, the binocular microscope, recognized in the United States and abroad as a great scientific achievement. In 1852, he demonstrated this invention before the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It later became the property of the Army Medical Division in Washington.

In 1847, Dr. Riddell delivered a lecture on aerial navigation before the People's Lyceum of New Orleans. This paper, though written by Riddell, carried the pseudonym, Orrin Lindsay. The lecture covered an imaginary trip to the moon and dealt with many matters which recently have become problems for aviation experts. Garland F. Taylor, director of Tulane's libraries, recently described this treatise as "unquestionably a classic in the early literature of space travel." In his story, Riddell explains that the vehicle for his trip to the moon was a

"magnetic balloon," the motor power of which was a magnetized steel quicksilver amalgum. More than a hundred years before "Sputnik II" roared into the skies, the first passenger to ride in Riddell's theoretical space-ship was a dog! There are in the story amusing and ingenious references to the sensations of weightlessness in space and to the physiological reactions of a space passenger. The paper included an account of a trip round the moon, with descriptions of the moon's terrain and "atmosphere." Thus did a native of Leyden become a pioneer in "space travel" a century before the first actual moon rocket hurtled skyward.

During his lifetime, Dr. Riddell compiled over 25 works in the fields of minerology and botany, and some of his southern plant discoveries were named in his honor. He was a frequent contributor to medical and surgical journals and added significant data on the yellow fever virus. He married in the South. His children were the late Mrs. York Woodward of New Orleans and Jefferson D. Riddell of Los Angeles. Dr. Riddell died in 1865, age 58. An oil portrait of the scientist hangs in the Louisiana State Museum.

Back in 1807, we find that besides the birth of John L. Riddell, other important events had transpired in Leyden. Late in the year, the people were asked "to assemble at the tavern of Nathaniel and Abel Carpenter, Innholders in Leyden, Monday the 21st of December at 3 of the clock in the afternoon to vote on the following: To see if the Town will agree to build a bridge from the center of Green River to the east bank of sd. River which is near Morey's Mills." This not only furnishes the earliest reference to the well-known Carpenter's Tavern, but establishes the location of Morey's Mills in West Leyden near the present bridge site. Since neither Colrain nor Leyden would venture an inch either side of the river's center, the \$500. appropriated by Leyden for the purpose of erecting half a bridge, lay dormant for some time!

May 3, 1808, the following article was put before the people: "To see if the Town will agree to send a Petition to the General Court to set off the District of Leyden from Bernardston." This was the first move toward incorporation of the Town of Leyden.

CHAPTER VII

Leyden's First Half Century As a Township

Early Life of H. K. Brown

It was on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1809, that Leyden became a full-fledged town with the privilege of choosing its own Representative to the General Court. Making immediate use of this privilege, the following Leyden men sought election to the state assembly early in the year: Hezekiah Newcomb, Jr. received 67 votes; Captain Joseph Eson, 40 votes; David Dennison, 6 votes; Abner Chapin, 4 votes.

It is interesting to note that the date of Leyden's incorporation coincided, within 10 days, with the birth of Abraham Lincoln and was nearly 200 years from the day the Netherlands edict was signed allowing the English Pilgrims to enter the sanctuary of Leiden, Holland.

During the early years of the new township's existence, one of the first problems was the adequate care of the poor and homeless. Though many New England communities "warned from town" those who might become public liabilities, Leyden took a novel approach to the subject, at least as far as women and children were concerned. This method was made clear when on May 1, 1809, it was "voted to set up the Towns Poor at Vendue to the lowest bidder." At this time Mrs. Clark and family were bid off by John Enos for one year at \$4.95 per month; Mrs. Edwards and two children were bid off by John Esen at \$3. per month and Lucinda Clark was bid off at 27 cents a week by Elisha Newton! Crude as this method may appear, something had to be done for the needy. There was no "State Aid" then.

Indicative of the hardiness of old folk at this period of Leyden's history, it is told that Elisha Burnham of Beaver Meadow carried the mails on foot from Greenfield, ten miles distant, for many years after the incorporation of the town. Mr. Burnham was then 79 years old!

The War of 1812: Sounding off on a preparedness note, it was voted on September 11, 1812 "to see if the Town will raise the Souldier's wages that stand as Minute Men if called into

service." This is the only Minute Man reference found in the War of 1812 records. Though Massachusetts' Governor Strong did not approve of the conflict, Leyden retained the fighting spirit of '76. Jesse Henry, a lieutenant in the 1812 recruiting service records that Leyden's eligible fighting men gathered on a Sunday morning in front of the Meeting House. Of the men enlisted on that occasion, six are recorded as follows: Stephen Doyle, Ira Grant, Briggs Potter, Asab Eson, Lincoln Fields and Nathan Budington. Ozias Allen, son of Simeon Allen, a Leyden native, was a casualty of the 1812 war. An official record states that he died in 1814 while with the U. S. Army. So unpopular was this war with Massachusetts authorities, however, it is recounted that one enlistee from the Leyden area had to walk all the way to Boston to join the ranks!

* * * * *

The Leyden Meeting House still was owned by private individuals at this time. In 1812, it was labeled "Benjamin Green's Hall" when representatives were chosen to the General Court. A year or two later it is referred to as "Bliss and Newcomb Hall." Votes, pro and con, to purchase the building for the town ended in stalemate.

During this period, further provision for the poor was suggested when it was proposed to "buy or hire a house for the town's needy persons." Nothing immediately came of this proposal, however, for a bit later we find a namesake of President James Madison "bid off" to Elisha Burnham for 65 cents a week.

Drastic measures were sometimes employed to cut down the pauper list. To make sure he would leave town, the house of one inebriate n'er-do-well was torn down by neighbors during the absence of the occupant!

The Years 1814-1830: The Birth and Boyhood of Henry Kirke Brown: Nearly every small town produces at one time or another its "famous man." Leyden was no exception to this rule. Toward the close of the War of 1812, at the time The Star Spangled Banner was composed, a child was born in Leyden, who later became not only a great artist and creator of the Washington equestrian statue at West Point, but an outstanding patriot "whose sculptured eagles could scream 'The Battle Cry of Freedom' from Maine to Colorado."

This child was Henry Kirke Brown, born February 24, 1814, on Leyden's Ethan Allen Highway, two miles south of the Vermont line. It was a period when Leyden's growth and prosperity

neared a climax: The Dorrilite shadow had passed; mills were busily humming; schools were well established.

H. K. Brown was the son of Elijah Brown who had removed from Groton, Connecticut to Guilford, Vermont early in the century. According to old records, Elijah came into Leyden via the Ethan Allen Highway a few weeks before the birth of his illustrious son-to-be. The mother, Rhoda (Childs) Brown, was a granddaughter of a well-known pioneer obstetrician of Deerfield. The grandfather, Elisha, was a veteran of the French and Indian wars. In his will, he left "his soul to God," and to his son, Elijah, he bequeathed 14 acres of land in Guilford and 13 in Leyden.

H. K. Brown's first American ancestor, Charles Brown, settled in Rowley, Massachusetts where he taught school and played the drum.

During Henry Brown's early childhood, in 1816, occurred the never-to-be-forgotten "cold year," with snow or frost each month of the Spring and Summer. Elijah Brown, with all the other Leyden farmers, had to scrape and save in order to get through the year at all.

Though cast iron stoves had been introduced in the cities, it was some time before these and other products of the impending industrial age, reached the Leyden hills. However, the first Leyden "safe" was proposed in 1816 when it was voted to "empower John Barstow to procure a chest for the use of the town to keep the town books in." About 75 years later, a brick vault was built to house the record books.

This was the period (1817) when President Monroe rode through all New England in an attempt to bring about an "Era of Good Feeling." He hoped to tie the states together following the serious divisions which had arisen during the War of 1812. Soon after his tour of the Northeast, all began to pull together; and in Leyden, townsfolk got to work improving their schools, farms and highways.

About this time, Henry Brown, then only 3 or 4 years old, was toddling about the dooryard of his father's Cape Cod house. Perhaps the little one's eyes wandered at times from the geese and chickens in the barnyard to watch the labors of Captain Green as he worked out his road tax on the farm to the south. And perhaps the eyes of Leyden's future artist took in, momentarily, the misty blue sweep of hills beyond.

When Henry Brown was four, the great flood of 1818 wiped

out every bridge, big and small, over Green River. In August of that year it was voted "to see if the town would take any measures to prosecute Mathew Barber or others that have fallen timber into the river — the reason for the Bridges going off in the freshet." At this time, two hundred dollars was raised to rebuild the West Leyden bridge "near Morey's Mills."

In 1819 occurred the strange "hot" Winter, with ploughing in January and grasshoppers and mosquitoes in February! Then came the "great drought."

The years 1821 and 1822, years when Henry Brown had begun his school, were years of readjustment and extension in the Leyden educational system. "Toland Hill" was added to the five school districts, and \$250. was voted to support all six places of learning. Regulations regarding school teachers began to tighten at this time when a vote was passed requiring the School Committee "not to hire any teacher unless he came recommended agreeable to law."

The "Center" school to which Henry Brown trudged each day was about two miles south of the Brown homestead, on a sharp bend of the County Road near the fork where one lane led to Beaver Meadow and Frizzell Hill, the other to the Meeting House, Tavern and the small shops.

Just above the bend in the road, the southern hills were visible for miles around. Here Henry on his way to school doubtless stopped to gaze at the beautiful panorama before him while his schoolmates shouted to hurry or he'd be late. Then Henry would turn away reluctantly and follow his playmates who, in turn, would stop and stare should a fast-moving or new model stagecoach pass their way.

The home to which Brown returned from school was, like many other pioneer houses in Leyden, a typical "Cape Cod." There was a Japanese lilac on the north side and old-fashioned yellow rose bushes on the south, near the great well sweep. Inside, a central chimney and huge fireplace was flanked by large front rooms with small-paned windows.

Little is known of Brown's school life, but it is safe to say he showed strong individual and artistic tendencies and that early in boyhood a spirit of rebellion against the for-granted way of life surged up in him.

During the mid-1820's, a restlessness had invaded Leyden. Accelerated by new eastward pathways — the National Highway to Illinois and the opening of the Erie Canal — exodus

from the eastern hill towns was beginning, and the dropping off of population figures was anything but encouraging to those who hoped to maintain the status quo. In Leyden, the first appreciable population drop is noted at this time and several roads appear on the records as "discontinued." Scrapers were purchased in the hope of improving the highways, the poor condition of which was doubtless another reason for the "Westward Ho" movement.

Apparently aware of the worsening conditions in Leyden and nearby towns, Elijah Brown backed a move in 1825 to choose delegates from neighboring communities "to see about improving the living conditions of the people, especially the poor."

Town Meetings, those days, were held in the Meeting House Church. Since the Leyden "Town Hall" still belonged to individual owners, the town voted in 1825 to appropriate money to repair the building in return for its use for town meetings. Though there were two taverns in town at this time (Carpenter's in the Center, and Tanner's a mile down the County Road) all legal meetings were held in the "Church." Among the legal business passed in 1825, the townsmen voted to purchase and lay out a burying ground on Frizzell Hill, repair the fences round the Beaver Meadow cemetery and procure four biers for the use of the town.

On the brighter side of the picture, Abel Perry, living on Leyden's eastern hills, initiated the first reforestation project in the history of the town.

For Henry Brown, the "hills beyond" held great interest, and each year the urge to see what lay over the horizon grew stronger. And this urge was more than a boyhood fancy.

It was 1828. Brown was just fourteen. He had completed grammar school and was undecided which way to turn next. Down in the village, he had a close artist friend, Ezra R. Shattuck. Early one Spring morning, Ezra told Henry that an itinerant silhouette artist was to put on a show at the Tavern that evening; that the man could make life-like silhouettes of anyone for only 25 cents.

Henry was enthusiastic at the prospect of seeing a "real" artist. Often in school he had made rough sketches of his classmates or the teacher — the idea of recording form on paper fascinated him. He was therefore determined to see the itinerant showman and perhaps learn something of the silhouette trade.

In 1828, the Tavern, close to the newly opened Post Office, was the center of gossip and commerce. It was from this spot that Leyden yeomen took off for Boston with ox carts loaded with produce. If they started on Monday morning, they would, with luck, return by Friday night weighted down with supplies of molasses, tea, salt and rum.

On the night of the show, Henry Brown and his friend stole into the front room of the Tavern where a huge fire roared and crackled hospitably. Fascinated, they watched the silhouette artist perform. After the demonstration, Henry talked to the showman and learned some of the tricks of the trade . . . And he learned all he needed to know, for next day he was on the road, bright and early, heading west, to "make his fortune."

So efficient was he in making silhouettes of the countryfolk along the way that he travelled all the forty odd miles to Albany and had a view of the Erie Canal and the big brownstone houses, before his father caught up with him and took him home.

Though Henry Brown returned to situations similar to those he had left, he had a broader outlook on life after his journey to Albany. He was now something of a man of the world!

Down the road from the Brown homestead lived Charles Packer, an intellectual of no small stature with a well-stocked library. Here, after his return from the "west," Henry Brown found companionship and stimulation from the worldly neighbor who sensing in Henry a dormant greatness, encouraged him to draw and read and think.

At this time in his late eighties, and nearly blind, Packer, who had lost his only son, welcomed the boy at all times and was repaid for his cordiality and help by Henry's reading aloud. It was during one of the reading sessions that Henry, happening to look up, was impressed by the intent listening attitude of the old man when firelight played on his face. Without hesitation, Brown produced a stubby pencil and in a few minutes had completed a sketch of his blind listener.

When he reached home that night, his parents thought the sketch so good, he was encouraged to reproduce it in oil. Henry had no canvas; no artist's paints. But Yankee ingenuity came to his aid. He "borrowed" a piece of his mother's old sheeting, stretched it across an improvised frame and treated it in such a way that it would "take" paint. With linseed oil he thinned out some old pigments he found in the barn, and got to work.

The result was a remarkable portrait which showed so much promise, his parents, realizing their son was something of a genius, were determined to give him every chance to develop his talents.

So it is that in 1830 we find Henry Brown as a student at the select Northfield Academy. Here Catherine Brooks, a descendant of an early Fall Town settler and later to become one of the finest and most accomplished women of the area, describes her classmate, Brown, as "handsome and tall, with expressive dark eyes." She added that he "was a merry youth full of good spirits and a player of the flute." He is said to have entertained his schoolmates with profile likenesses which he cut from white paper. His fellow students at Northfield predicted Brown would some day go abroad to study art. This prediction, he said in later years, gave him the courage and ambition to make the prophesy come true.

We next hear of Henry Brown as a student of Chester Harding in Boston. Harding, a native of Conway, was at this time, New England's leading portrait painter. He had created likenesses of presidents Madison, Monroe and Adams; he had painted Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and the great adventurer, Daniel Boone.

Brown was in Boston when the slavery question began to wax hot, and was inspired by the zealous patriots around him. This fervent patriotism was reflected in his great sculptural triumphs in the years to come.

After three seasons with Chester Harding, Brown next appears, in 1837, on a surveying expedition led by Christopher T. Armes of Deerfield. The future artist, George Fuller, then a boy of fourteen, also was in this party. A rare primitive, drawn by Richard C. Arms of Deerfield, shows Brown, Fuller and surveyor Armes encamped in Illinois where they were locating an early railway.

Engineering life proved too rugged for the young artist, so in 1838 he was forced to give it up and retire to Cincinnati where for the first time he discovered his talent for sculpture. He remained in Cincinnati till 1839 when he married the daughter of the prominent Judge Udall of Vermont.

Brown next settled in Albany, terminus of his youthful westward trek. Within three years, he had created over forty busts of the leading men of the day in his capacious Albany studio.

Dissatisfied with his progress, however, he decided to raise enough money to enable him to study abroad. With the aid of generous friends, he carried through this plan, and in 1841 we lose sight of him as he takes off for art instruction in Rome. Here he laid the foundation for a career which later brought him fame and fortune. As we shall see in a subsequent chapter, the one-time barefoot boy of Leyden soon was to become the sculptor of America's greatest men.

Leyden 1830-1846: Meanwhile, on the home front, particularly interesting events had transpired. Hezekiah Newcomb, State Representative from Leyden had, in connection with his duties in Boston, drawn up a colorful map of his native town. In this work, he was aided by Jonathan Budington, Leyden pioneer. The map which has been reproduced on page 107 never before has been published. The original, in three colors, is on file at the Massachusetts State House.

Comparing the Newcomb map with the Chapin map of 1794, we find that while only seven mills are shown on the early Leyden chart, ten mills, including two cloth fulling mills appear on the Newcomb drawing. In addition, the 1831 map gives much more detail than the Chapin production. Meetinghouse, Tavern, school and road locations including the 1828 County Road near Keets' Mills help the reader visualize the Leyden of 1830 — the Leyden which John Riddell and Henry Brown knew as young men. Identification of "Uncle Daniels Peque" by Hezekiah Newcomb confirms our earlier conclusions that this hillock was named for Leyden's first white child, Daniel Newcomb, born in Beaver Meadow.

The years 1830 to 1840, under presidents Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren, saw great expansion in the country through the westward extension of canals and railroads. The New England hill towns suffered most from this expansion which, with the rapidly growing industrial centers, sapped the young blood from upland farms. In fact, by 1840, Leyden alone had lost from its peak population figure, nearly half its youthful citizens.

Repercussions of the great financial panic which swept the country in 1837 are noted in the town records. To keep the wolf from the door, it is apparent that men borrowed money on all and sundry personal articles. In 1840, for instance, David Pratt put up as security "one smooth bored gun, 1 Box Stove, one axe and one pair specktales" for a \$12.25 loan! In another deal, "one over Coat, one pr. Black Cassimere panterloons, one Stock



Newcomb Map of Leyden — 1831
 (Dark areas are Meadows; peaked rectangles are Schools;
 plain rectangles, Mills)

and 1 pr. Buckskin mittens" were offered for a small amount of cash.

But the prize list of collateral goods is found under date of April 27, 1840 when Isaac Cheney, Leyden storekeeper, put up the following as security on a \$356. loan: "32 prs mens boots, 40 yds of Sattinette, 7 yds Sheeps Grey cloth, 3½ yds Full cloth, 10 prs Footings, 30½ yds Furniture, 57 yds Callico, 5 silk hats, 1 Brown Cow, 1 paint Mill, 1 broom handle lathe, 2 circular saws, 1 large stove with 20 ft Pipe, 1 tinnens furnace, 1 nut and 1 bolt mould, 7 leather whips, 1 cast iron press and dies, 200 lbs Broom brush, 1,000 Broom heads, 1 clock, 6 fancy chairs, 1 sow with 5 little pigs."

At this time, Elisha Wells received from Caroline Eudy, granddaughter of the Hessian, John Eudy, \$140 for "stock, a bureau and a feather bed." Shortly after this, Wells, who had taken over the Eudy farm, mortgaged to Caroline and Rosanna Eudy (then of Philadelphia), "all the crops now standing on the farm (except the Broom Corn) such as potatoes, Apples, Sun Flower seeds, Buck Wheat and Beans."

While several orphan children of Leyden were placed in the American Asylum at Hartford, those remaining in town were "bid off" at bargain prices, as in evidenced by the notation: "Sophia Josephine Lincoln bid off to Oliver Davenport at 30c a week to board, clothe, Doctor, school and all other expenses."

A bright spot in the 1841 Leyden picture was the erection of the Methodist Church about which the reader will find a full account in the 1941 Centennial Church Review farther on in this book.

In 1842 there was a trend to shut down the smaller saw and grist mills of Leyden. This was a period when small mills all over the Northeast began to give way to the "industrial age." On June 8th, for instance, Benjamin Bullock, Jr. sold to Edward Thompson for \$200: "One saw Mill, situated on Country Farm Brook on land of Hart Larabee." Also sold at this time was "one shingle mill . . . one Grind stone and turning Lathe and one 92 inch circular saw." The man who sold this property was the son of Benjamin Bullock, Sr. who had met an untimely death ten years before "from the blow of a sawmill gate which was accidentally set in motion when Bullock was below."

On December 20th 1842, Henry Thorn of West Leyden sold to Luther Weld of Brattleboro for \$50. "a machine for turning Broom Handles, consisting of a Lathe & Saws & Arbors & Tools

connected therewith, situated in the Thorn Mill in Leyden and now in use by Weatherhead & Gates."

In 1845, the first school of higher learning was introduced into Leyden when the prominent doctor, Willard A. Wilkins, inaugurated "The Leyden Glen Academy." Little is known of this school beyond the fact it was the forerunner of advanced study in Leyden — the first college preparatory institution in the town.

The Years 1846-1858: The Mexican War, which began in 1846, had few repercussions in Leyden, or in many New England hill towns for that matter because of its unpopularity in the Northeast. A letter from the Adjutant General in Boston informs us that the First Company Infantry, M. V. M. was the only company to serve from Massachusetts during the Mexican War. No Leyden soldiers have been identified on the rolls of this company.

Judging by the Leyden names which appear in old California records, it is safe to say that a fair representation of Leyden's youth, taking advantage of newly completed eastern railway services, headed for the California gold fields when the rush began early in 1849. We know that a good number of Leyden men helped blaze the western trail, and that some were pioneers of the great cities which have since grown up in their footsteps. Outstanding among these pioneers were Lucy Corse and her husband, J. B. Smith. According to Sheldon's History of Deerfield, Lucy was the granddaughter of Indian fighter Asher Corse and great granddaughter of Samuel Chapin, a founder of Springfield, Massachusetts. Lucy's father, John Corse, moved to Leyden from Greenfield Meadows about 1798. In 1815, Lucy was born in Leyden and in 1834 married J. B. Smith. According to Sheldon "they removed to Milwaukee in 1835 and their daughter, Milwaukee Harriet, was the first white child born in that town."

During the turbulent years preceding the Civil War — the years of Polk's, Taylor's, Pierce's and Buchanan's administrations — Leyden and other hill towns plodded along trying to keep an even keel and hoping against hope that somehow, in some way, the question of slavery would be settled and peace would continue in the land.

At this period, when the Leyden population figure began to level off — even to increase a little — the 1858 Wallings map of the area furnishes excellent data for a complete picture of the town one hundred years ago. It is the first map of Leyden which

shows all places of residence as well as schools, churches, stores, blacksmith shops and topographical features.

It is interesting to compare the data on this map with that on Newcomb's 1831 survey. The Wallings map shows six school locations; Newcomb's five. Wallings shows six mills; Newcomb's ten. Two blacksmith shops, not indicated on the Newcomb map, appear on the 1858 chart. Interesting, too, is indication of a shift in the town center from the west, on Ethan Allan Highway, to the present eastern location. The Newcomb map shows one church in the old center; the Wallings map shows churches in both old and new centers. It will be noted that most of the 1858 citizens listed are of old pioneer stock. The great immigration, which began in the Forty's and brought in new blood from Ireland, Germany and France, is not reflected on the Wallings map. In fact, "Mr. J. Black" stands out as a pioneer representative in the wave of European immigration which later reached Leyden's "shores."

In order to present the full picture of the town of Leyden over a century ago, we have decided to list all the names on the Wallings map rather than make a reproduction which would be difficult to read because of small print.

Just prior to the great civil strife, this overall "picture" represents an era of quiet living when kerosene lamps were coming in, and the new songs, "Jingle Bells" and Stephen Foster's "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming" strike a key note.

Here, then, in a novel arrangement, is a word picture of Leyden, 101 years ago. First names were abbreviated by Wallings; but we have supplied full names when possible. Beginning at the north end of the River Road in the northwest corner of the town was the 1858 home of Nathaniel Avery; next down the road lived Crandall Thorn. Opposite him was Allen Gates' home, birthplace of John Riddell's mother. At the foot of the hill was the Thorn Mill. Next down the road lived R. Miner on the old Benj. Baker place, and off to the left was the Crandall homestead. E. G. Miner lived on the present Louise Johnson place.

In the West Leyden settlement at the bridge lived B. R. Richmond, Arad Denison, John Mowry and G. W. Stanton. Richmond operated a "Gun Shop" near his home. The Mowry homestead where John Wells has recently rebuilt, may have been the birthplace of John L. Riddell, pioneer space scientist.

Following the steep road, northeastward up the hill the "R. Richmond" place (now Robertson's) stood near the summit,

south of the West Leyden cemetery. Down the Bell Road, westward were the homes of "J. Mowry and A. Miner" with School House #5 at the junction with the Miner Road where Esther Stanton, J. R. Miner and Joseph Babcock lived.

North of the cemetery site was the C. C. Miner place and farther east, beyond "Peleg's Bog" lived N. G. Mowry, with D. Green & Son on the old Green place half way up the hill. A. W. Carpenter was on the present Snow farm, while down the Lamb Road lived "Mrs. Bassett." Nearby was A. J. Buddington.

Beginning at the Vermont line on Ethan Allan Highway and moving south were the homes of L. D. and E. D. Alexander; then J. A. Gates, and on the Packer place, A. P. Shattuck. Next came the birthplace of Henry K. Brown where Samuel, a brother, lived in 1858. Nearly opposite lived Briggs Potter and his son.

At the Old Center, just south of the district school which Henry Brown attended, lived "S. Billings & Mrs. M. Newcomb." "M. Carpenter" had a store just below the old Meetinghouse. The Tavern, opposite, owned by J. H. Newcomb, was the scene of country auctions at this time.

Southward, down the County Road, lived Harvey Wilbur on the old Briggs place and at the foot of the hill was "J. Basset," and beyond him, the South Cemetery. To the right, on the old Kately Road lived G. Marcy and Z. King. "J. Henry" lived on the present Campbell place nearly opposite District School #6. On the Mowry Mountain Road lived "Mrs Davenport," William Marcy and A. O. Budington who owned three houses on this road. David Mowry and R. Henry owned houses at the extreme south end of this "highway." On the right side of the County Road below Mowry's lived "J. Black," one of the first immigrants to come to Leyden, probably as a result of the great potato famine in Ireland.

Back on top of the hills, we list the inhabitants of the New Center and those living on roads branching from this central location. The blacksmith shop of A. A. Field was at the head of the road leading toward Beaver Meadow. Opposite lived A. M. Carlton with Dr. T. S. Vining. J. Foster, Jr. lived on the present Spencer Howes place, with J. Cary north of him. The present Dobias farm was occupied in 1858 by R. S. & B. S. Foster.

The Wallings map shows a school in the new center. This was undoubtedly the Academy which Dr. Wilkins opened in 1845. Next the school was the Methodist Church; and on the present Ewer place lived "E. Davis." Back on the road leading

southeast from the New Center, we find Mrs. L. Wilkins. The Methodist parsonage was next door, with R. H. Taylor's Union Store and Post Office close by. In order, following down the hill lived, S. L. Shattuck, J. Green, the Reverend De Wolf and Eli W. Packer. Harvey Wilbur owned the house at the point where the road crossed the brook at the foot of the hill. J. Budington was in the house next to Wilbur's and C. C. Severance lived at the junction of the valley road and the spur road leading eastward to J. H. Pratt's place.

The first house near the head of Alexander Road belonged to J. B. Denison with two more farms belonging to Edward Denison farther down the highway on the left and right respectively. Edward Denison was a teacher at Beaver Meadow School at the foot of the Alexander Road. Nearby was Beaver Meadow cemetery.

On the east side of the meadow, at the foot of Hunt Hill, lived R. O. Hescox in a large house said to have been built for the poor. (Finding no tenants, rumor has it he died in it penniless himself!) Just north of Hescox lived Asahel Newton, Jr., with Oliver Chapin's large farm to the northwest. J. M. Wilder lived on the present Cook place, and there was a blacksmith shop down the mill road on the left. At the foot of the hill was the Rufus Shattuck home and below him lived "Mrs. M. Shattuck," with B. S. Keet opposite. Keet operated three mills just below his house. These were purchased from Shattuck in 1848. Following up the Page Road to the plateau above the mills, we find two widows, Mrs. I. Cheney and Mrs. Allen living in seclusion.

Heading up the East Hill Road from the mills, the old Joshua Wells place was first on the right; next came Joseph Foster's, and on the left above him, the old William Dorril house site where Samuel Newton is listed as tenant in 1858. Elisha Newton lived on the John Glabach farm and W. S. Potter was on the Hine place. Marcus Frizzell lived on the old Cunnabell homestead and a "G. Wells" was below him on the Couch Brook. Back on East Hill Road we find G. W. and R. Hastings on the present Black farm, with Thomas J. Newcomb on the Arms place. An "R. Phillips" lived at the head of Frizzell Hill Swamp. W. S. Potter owned the Baker place. Frizzell Hill school was nearly opposite, and the cemetery just below. Jotham Carpenter had the old Grinnel place, now owned by the Garrs. At the head of the East Glen Road lived Robert Strange. Below him were two farms owned by "H. Sheldon." J. E. and D. G. Chapin owned

the place west of Sheldon, with Milton Mowry on the present Herron farm and Allen Eson at the end of a nearby spur road. Following down East Glen Road, we come to the large farm of Uriah T. Darling & Son, with D. N. Carpenter just below. Stephen Dorril, son of the Dorrilite founder, lived on the present Britton place, and below him was "O. Hastings." Off to the east, lived J. Erwin and R. Strong on a hill so steep legend has it that the owners had to carry grain home on their backs "to spare the horses."

At the top of Frizzell Hill West, lived Chester W. Severance; below him, Rufus Frizzell on the Howes place. Next came C. W. Newcomb, then R. S. Nash. Mrs. E. Carpenter was near the foot of the hill, with H. Potter on the present Douglas Barton home. C. W. Newcomb also owned the place known today as the "ghost house," with F. W. Carlton on the Wood place and "S. Newton" on the present Zimmerman farm.

In the southeast, near the old Hessian settlement, lived Marcus and Abel Chapin on the present Tyler farm. "J. Chapin" was on the Arnold place with Elisha Wells on the old Eudy farm. G. M. Gale was next door, while Zalmon Chapin lived on the present Dyer farm. Opposite was David Chapin, who like the other Chapin families in this area, was a descendant of Springfield's Samuel Chapin.

In the rare book department of the Boston Public Library there is a map similar to the 1858 Wallings production. It shows Leyden homesites, but without designation of the owners' names. Though undated, it is believed this earlier map was drawn up by 1855.

Leyden in the Civil War: In the late 1850's, Henry Kirke Brown, who had created many fine statues after his return from Europe, was invited to model a huge monumental work for the South Carolina state house. Brown made good progress on this project. He moulded symbolic figures representing Hope, Justice, and Liberty; laborers were shown working in the rice and cotton fields. But when the controversy over slavery waxed hot and the war clouds thickened, he was forced to abandon the South Carolina monument. He traveled north to Washington, where as a Leyden representative he worked with the sick and wounded throughout the civil strife. The work of art he had nearly completed in Columbia was destroyed by General Sherman and his men when they passed through South Carolina.

Meanwhile, with the fall of Fort Sumter, men in the eastern

hills, to the tune of "John Brown's Body" and the "Battle Cry of Freedom" were quick to respond to President Lincoln's call for volunteers. In Leyden, David C. Mowry and Eugene T. Mowry were first to enlist, with both men signing up in Company C of the 27th Massachusetts Infantry on Sept. 13, 1861. David Mowry was engaged in the battles of Roanoke, Virginia and Newbern, North Carolina, but died of malarial fever the following October. Peter F. Baker joined Mowry's company on September 20th, 1861, but died at Annapolis the following February. Reuben De Wolfe enlisted on the same day with Baker, but was soon discharged for disability. Another Leyden casualty was Frank P. Marcy of the 46th Illinois Regiment. Marcy was killed, April 7, 1862 at the Battle of Shiloh while serving under U. S. Grant.

Stephen C. Newcomb, son of Charles W. Newcomb of Leyden enlisted in 1861 at Newburg, N. Y. where he was working in the H. K. Brown foundry. He joined Company D of the First New York Rifles. During the war he was wounded several times and three horses were shot under him.

On March 12, 1862, Charles S. Babcock enlisted in Company I, 21st Massachusetts Infantry; J. O. Carpenter joined the 33rd Mass. Infantry, Company K, on June 20th; Frank C. Brown joined Company C, 27th Mass. Infantry on August 4th, but died October 8th; Hart E. Mowry also enlisted on August 4th; Edwin C. Newton joined the 52nd Regiment, Mass. Infantry, Company A, on October 2nd. On October 11th Leyden gave nine men to Company B, 52nd Mass. Regiment. These men were: Elijah Brown, John W. Budington, Uriah T. Darling, Simon S. Keet, Albert R. Robertson, James P. Robertson, Samuel C. Severance, W. W. Severance and Ezra A. Shattuck, Jr.

The 1864 volunteers (chiefly from newcomer Leyden families) are given below with date of enlistment and regiment served: February 29, William O. Cook, 1st Cavalry, Co. E; Franklin D. Hamilton, March 3, 28th Infantry, Co. B; Calvin L. Hamilton, March 3, 28th Infantry, Co. D; William B. Wood, Aug. 13, 37th Infantry, Co. H; Charles Connors, Dec. 24, 1st Regiment Heavy Artillery; Philip Hayes, Dec. 24, 37th Infantry, Co. A; William Owen, Dec. 24, 53rd Infantry Regiment.

Patriotism ran high in the Leyden hills during the civil conflict and any who did not do their part or shirked war-time responsibilities were summarily punished. One newly-arrived citizen attempted to avoid army induction by fleeing to Canada.

Upon his return, he and the man who helped in his escape were tarred and feathered, then driven from town!

A member of a prominent Leyden family, having moved to Georgia, entered the Confederate Home Guard when the war broke out. He was later conscripted for the duration and fought under Stonewall Jackson. He surrendered to the Union troops at the Battle of Gettysburg and was imprisoned at Fort Mifflin near Philadelphia. With the aid of relatives he escaped by swimming the Delaware, and returned to the South. It is said that one of his brothers-in-law was taken prisoner by the Rebels! Such were the vagueries and tragedies of the American Civil War.

An interesting sidelight on the conflict came to our attention in a letter, without date or signature, obviously written by a Leyden man who had fought in the first Battle of Bull Run. The hitherto unpublished document recounts, in colorful prose, the defeat of the Black Horse Cavalry, "the flower of the sons of rich, aristocratic slave-holders," by a regiment of "northern, mud-soaked Fire Zouaves."

As a concluding note on the Civil War, we turn to the 1865 war memorial in Old Deerfield, designed and cast by Leyden's sculptor, Henry Kirke Brown. At the dedication of this piece, the speaker, pointing to the life-like eagles atop the monument, cried: "Such eagles as that could scream the Battle Cry of Freedom from Maine to Colorado!"

CHAPTER VIII

Leyden — 1861 Through World War I

The **Fall Town Centennial:** At a meeting in Leyden, November 5, 1861, it was voted "to unite with the town of Bernardston in celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town and to choose a Committee to confer with Bernardston centennial officials." This committee included David Mowry, Horace Potter, F. W. Carlton, Chester W. Severance and Oliver Chapin. Other Leyden officials for the Centennial were: Jonathan Budington, Dr. T. S. Vining, Daniel L. Morgan, Zadoc King, E. W. Packer, A. O. Budington and Briggs Potter.

Centennial celebrations took place on August 20, 1862 when, under escort of a band from Hatfield, a colorful procession wended its way toward the Bernardston Common where seats were provided for 1500 guests all of whom were invited to dinner by E. D. Fox, proprietor of Bernardston Tavern.

Toastmaster Dr. John Brooks welcomed, oratorically, the Leyden delegation, saying "Fifty-three years ago, as our daughter, she left the parental hearthstone; today, as our sister, she returns to it with a warm greeting!" Lieutenant-Governor Cushman then spoke at length on the history and development of "Fall Town." Showing impartial judgement in regard to early Indian troubles, particularly in regard to the causes of King Philip's War, he said: "The red men became enraged at the frequent acts of injustice perpetrated by the English settlers, and asserted themselves in self defence."

Speaking of the hardiness of early colonials, Cushman drew attention to one pioneer who sat beside him on the speaker's platform — Mr. Edward Nelson, for many years a resident of Leyden. Nelson was then hale and hearty in his 98th summer — "a living memorial of the year 1765." Teachers and pupils from every school district in Leyden were present in gay dresses. They carried beautiful bouquets, and waved colorful banners when applause was called for.

In an amusing historical poem, Dr. John Brooks, father of Henry Brown's close friend, Catherine Brooks (Yale), pictured early pioneer life when hoes and shovels were so big and clumsy it took a strong man even to lift them off the ground!

Brooks spoke of early wooden ploughs, plated with iron. He spoke of great and little spinning wheels, and described the early looms. Of the pioneer women, the Doctor said: "Not so flattered or caressed as in these modern times, with health most women then were blest."

He went on to tell how husband and wife often rode "pillion" to church astride the old grey mare. He spoke of the high-heeled shoes with pointed toes worn by the ladies, and of the cocked hats and wigs worn by the men. He described the men's breeches buckled tightly at the knees, and their long hair cued up in back with eel skin.

Next, the Reverend Thomas Marcy of Leyden paid tribute to his native town. He said Leyden had produced, among her other notable children, eleven clergymen, four doctors and three lawyers. An outstanding clergyman was Ichabod Marcy born at the foot of Frizzell Hill in 1811. After attending the "little red schoolhouse" two months each year during his grammar school days, he was apprenticed to a hatmaker. Determined to study for the ministry, he prepared for college in Shelburne Falls and graduated from Wesleyan University in 1839. He began preaching in the Leyden area in 1841 and was active in his chosen field until his death in 1899. Marcy's ministerial career is typical of the hill town clergy of this period.

Oddly enough, the two Leyden men who became best known in the world were not mentioned in any of the centennial addresses! Neither the space theorist, John L. Riddell, nor sculptor, Henry K. Brown, received any recognition at the "Fall Town" jubilee, probably because their work had taken them so far afield.

Latter Days of H. K. Brown: On his return from Rome, Brown did the unexpected. Instead of hiring a studio and going to work in New York or Boston, he dropped everything and went to live with the Indians in the Northwest Territory. He explained he wished "to purge himself of surface influences of the European school — to get down to the grass roots of American culture."

Shortly after his return to the east, he settled in Brooklyn. Here, in a capacious studio, he completed his first large sculptural piece — The Indian and Panther, a beautifully executed monument depicting early American life in the "whole" state. After completion of the Indian and Panther, he got to work on what was to be his masterpiece — the Washington Equestrian

statue said by experts to be "a pattern and guide to the profession for all time to come." The original of this work stands today in Union Square, New York City. A replica was presented to West Point Military Academy in 1915. (See Frontispiece.) The original is the first heroic bronze statue ever cast in America.

It was in Brooklyn that H. K. Brown turned out two \$20,000 Lincoln statues and a huge monument of General Winfield Scott, cast from cannon used in Mexican War expeditions. It was in his Brooklyn studio, too, that Deerfield artist, George Fuller, studied under Brown. It also was in this studio that Brown painted one of his rare portraits. Here, Richard Catlin Arms, pioneer railway bridge builder, sat for his picture in return for help given Brown in his European art studies.

As early as 1851, Brown was elected to full membership in the National Academy of Art, and from 1859 to 1860 served as U. S. Art Commissioner under President Buchanan.

A short time before the Civil War, Brown removed to Newburg, N. Y., where he built a casting foundry. Here, with his adopted nephew, Henry Bush-Brown, he spent the remainder of his life engaged in sculpture and the breeding of fine horses. Henry Bush-Brown compiled a voluminous manuscript biography of his uncle and painted a portrait of his foster parent. This portrait hangs today in the rooms of the Newburg Historical Society. A bust of the sculptor is in the Hall of American Artists, Gould Memorial Library, New York University.

During his lifetime, Brown made frequent visits to the old homestead in Leyden. Today, though his Cape Cod birthplace is no more, the Brown woodlands have been planted to young evergreen trees by state conservationists as a kind of "Church Woods" memorial to Leyden's great artist.

The Leyden Physicians: With the passing of Dr. Thomas S. Vining, April 12, 1866, the last resident physician of Leyden vanished from the scene. Over one hundred years before this, the first resident physician, Dr. Bolton, is recorded as living in the East Colrain section of Fall Town. On November 23, 1753, he resided near Lot 49 of the Colrain Gore. The second resident physician was Dr. Polycarpus Cushman who settled in the east part of Fall Town in 1772. Two years later, he married Rachael Field, sister of Leyden's Irene Field Newcomb. Cushman was of full Puritan descent. His pilgrim ancestor, Robert Cushman, was a member of Pastor Robinson's church in Leiden, Holland.

The first reference to Fall Town medical matters appears in

the 1771 records where it is proposed "to pay for Mr. Peat's sickness while he was ill with small pox." A bit later, another reference to small pox turns up when the question of inoculation against the disease is raised. This was twenty years before William Jenner perfected his small pox vaccine in England.

Dr. Benjamin Morgan appears as Leyden's initial resident doctor. His name first appears on the records March 3, 1785 when a son was born to his wife, Hannah. Morgan lived on the east side of Beaver Meadow. He was William Dorril's physician and "near neighbor." Morgan is quoted as saying that Dorril never was ill, but that his growing family needed doctoring occasionally. In 1799, Morgan's house was valued at a modest \$30! In 1820, he deeded this house and 40 acres of land to his son, Daniel. The good doctor then vanished from the stage of history. The only other Leyden physician of the 18th century is listed as Theodore Shepherd, M. D. who practiced in Leyden during the early 1790's.

Leyden physicians of the early 19th Century include: Dr. Henry Niles (1826); Dr. Eli Wing (1827); Dr. Flint; Dr. Edwin Haynes; and Dr. Samuel Stearns, son of Dorrilite, Charles Stearns. The outstanding doctor of this period was Willard A. Wilkins, graduate of Vermont Medical College in 1831. He was Leyden's town clerk and treasurer in 1833, and in 1845 sponsored the Leyden Glen Academy.

In the mid 19th Century, Doctors John Quincy Adams Packer and H. W. Wells represented the medical profession in Leyden, while William and Charles Severance, both from Leyden, became prominent physicians in nearby communities. Dr. Leonard Morgan, a descendant of Dr. Benjamin Morgan, removed to Atlanta, Georgia, where he died in 1872, according to Dr. Lawrence R. Dame, medical historian of the Leyden area.

Dr. Thomas S. Vining resided in Leyden Center as early as 1857. Here he not only tended the sick, but acted as postmaster until his death in 1866. After this time, Leyden depended on physicians from neighboring towns. Though Greenfield doctors charged only one shilling for Greenfield visits, their fee was 5 shillings, or nearly \$1.25 for Leyden calls. Though this is only about a tenth the charge of today, it was considered a high price 100 years ago. Hence, it behooved the Leyden townsfolk to so regulate their lives that they kept well. Apparently they did. One physician wrote at this time there was so little sickness

in Leyden, a doctor would starve to death there if he did not have at least one other trade!

1871 — The Beers Map: During the post-war years, following the purchase of Alaska and the opening of the trans-continental railway, the population of most hill towns in New England continued on a downward trend. Leyden was no exception. By 1871 the population was less than half that of 1800. The John Beers map, reproduced here speaks for itself. One may note some changes of residents on the old homesites, but most of them are the same as in the 1858 Wallings census. Perhaps the chief change during the 1860's was the complete shifting of the town center from the west to the east.

A unique feature of the Beers map is the location of Leyden's "Cheese Factory." About the year 1870, so the story goes, a group of Leyden citizens organized a company to operate the town's only known factory. Similar factories had been opened in nearby towns. The movement was popular at first as it gave farmers an opportunity to deliver milk to a central location and sell it at a good price.

Shares at \$100. each were offered by the cheese factory organization; a building was quickly erected and men were hired to process the cheese. Due to outside competition, however, the factory did not flourish, and after two years of operation, Leyden's lone factory was converted into a tenement, with a blacksmith shop downstairs and a select school for ladies upstairs!

The Greenfield Aqueduct Company: New on the Leyden map of 1871 is the "Greenfield Aqueduct Company" shown at the head of Glen Brook. Here a high dam had been constructed at a point where the brook had worn a passage through the rocks 15 feet in width and 30 to 50 feet in depth. The sparkling pure water, thus captured, supplied the nearby town of Greenfield.

Tragedy and comedy are associated with the well-known Leyden Glen, described by historians as a wildly romantic spot and a delightful retreat for tourists before the incursions of the aqueduct company.

As far back as 1757, Indians on the lookout for white captives, espied from Leyden Glen a party of workers in the Greenfield Meadows below. Creeping up on the unsuspecting colonists, the red men suddenly swooped down on the unarmed workers, killed several of them and captured among others, one



Beers' 1871 Map of Leyden

Daniel Graves. Because he was lame and would have been an incumbrance on the long trek to Canada, he was despatched at the foot of Leyden Glen. Nearly one hundred years later, Benjamin Bullock, Leyden mill owner, was instantly killed in the wheel pit of the Glen Mill.

Before the days of aqueducts and bridges at the Glen, it was a popular Sunday afternoon rendezvous for adventurous boys and girls. At the brook crossing, the boys made basket chairs on which they carried their lady friends. Before making the crossing, it was arranged which boy would collect the "toll." Sometimes, in mid stream, a particularly pretty miss would be lowered gently toward the foaming cold water until "toll" was collected by both carriers.

The first pure water from Leyden Glen reached Greenfield's streets in October, 1870. Previous to this, Greenfield had depended on springs and ponds for its water. Some of this was conducted to the houses in wooden logs of three inch bore.

According to Judge Thompson of Greenfield, the dam at the head of Leyden Glen — a solid structure of stone laid in concrete — was 35 feet high and 130 feet in length. The cost of the dam and the four and three quarter mile conduit of 8-inch cast iron pipe, was \$70,000. It was completed on October 21, 1870. Major William Keith of Greenfield was credited with the idea of bringing the Leyden water to Greenfield. "It was as important a move as ever was made to forward the prosperity of Greenfield," one business man proclaimed.

By the year 1905, a second reservoir was constructed above the first. It held 44 million gallons. To complete this dam an excavation 42 feet below the water level was necessary to reach bed rock. The two dams were connected by a 30 inch cast iron pipe and had a capacity of 66 million gallons. In dry times, water was pumped from Green River by means of a locomotive type engine. During peak loads, Leyden Glen furnished Greenfield with 800,000 gallons of water daily.

The Greenfield water commissioner reports the quality of Leyden water as excellent. It is of moderate hardness, colorless, and contains no objectionable amounts of iron. In 1937-38, a modern filtration plant was built in southeast Leyden. It was designed to eliminate turbidity, and through aeration, filtered out ammonia, and possible objectionable gases. The Glen water is also chlorinated at this plant to eliminate harmful bacteria, if any.

Rounding out the 1871 picture when Ulysses S. Grant was President, we find that despite difficult times, Leyden continued to maintain its identity. Numbers of stock raisers, fruit growers, dairymen and mechanics were well in evidence. At this time, Simon Keet, a thriving miller, advertised himself as "a dealer in grain, lumber, lath and broom handles." U. T. Darling, storekeeper, was listed as a dealer in dry goods, groceries, nails, flour, shoes and crockery.

Drifting along to the year 1884 when the telephone, electric light and phonograph were appearing, or were about to appear on the city scene, we find Leyden not only building a brand new Town Hall, but stepping out with a "modern invention" of its own in the form of a miniature public water supply system. It was fed from no other source than historic Brandy Brook spring!

M. Dayton Miner and Milton M. Mowry, two of Leyden's leading citizens, initiated this spirited venture by laying a mile or so of quarter inch lead pipe from the bubbling source to a dozen or so eager outlets. These included the Parsonage, the Academy, Village Store and the homes of Cyrus Miner, Milton Mowry, Patrick Johnson, Dayton Miner and the home of the aged daughter-in-law of that colorful character, William Dorril. The main line of this water system ran from the spring into the cellar of the Miner homestead where all the outlets to "customers'" homes were controlled. The modest charge for the water from Brandy Brook spring was only \$5.00 per annum in 1871, but today the seven or eight families still on the line pay over double the original fee.

There is an old legend, told by the late John H. Newcomb, which explains the origin of the name, Brandy Brook. It seems there was once a distillery at the foot of the hill below Brandy Brook spring. One day a man named Dave Peck, when going up the road from the still with a large barrel of brandy, lost his load on a steep pitch. In fact, the barrel rolled into the nearby brook, and with a loud explosion, mixed its contents with the bubbling water. A Yankee rhyme, commemorating this incident runs:

Hoop blew up
And Barrel bust:
Dave went home
In a Thunder gust!

The Years 1886-1895: On June 10, 1886, the southeast corner of Leyden, containing over 200 acres, was signed over to the town of Bernardston. This move was beneficial to both towns concerned: It relieved Leyden of road maintenance in a difficult area and gave Bernardston the rich, historic strip of land which originally belonged to the early Hessian settlers.

In 1888, the year of the great blizzard, tales of huge snow drifts, twenty feet high, were common in Leyden. John Herron, who lived on the old Asahel Newton place on Hunt Hill, was marooned for nearly a day on East Hill before he was able to battle his way homeward. It's told that another Leyden resident had to climb in the upper ventilating window of his barn "to get to milking."

Rolling on into the "Gay Ninety" period, we find Leyden quietly going her way — celebrating with neighboring towns the centennial of George Washington's inaugural, and taking note of the country's progress since that inaugural. It was a time of peace and plenty, and though the Leyden population did not multiply, descendants of the Pilgrim stock were still much in evidence.

The Leyden Town Report of 1892 reveals that such pioneer families as Newcomb, Frizzell, Severance, Budington, Denison, Davenport, Miner, Mowry and Dorril made up the greater part of Leyden's population at this time. There were three families of Scotch-Irish stock listed. These were: Black, Strange and Herron — attracted to Leyden no doubt by the similarity of terrain which was much like that of Northern Ireland and Scotland from whence they came. No immigrants from continental Europe, other than the Hessian contingent, had yet appeared in Leyden.

The 1892 report also reveals that Leyden had at this time only two mills on Keet's Brook. In West Leyden, the grist and saw mills had been replaced by the Lynde Brothers Box Shop where a flourishing business in wooden boxes was carried on until the advent of the cardboard container.

As an example of an average Leyden farm in 1892, we list the complete taxed holdings of George H. Denison. These were: 2 oxen, \$100; 2 horses, \$150; 4 cows, \$120; 5 farrow cattle, \$100; 2 two-year olds, \$40; 3 yearlings, \$45; 1 house, \$350; 2 barns, \$442; 1 Sugar House, \$23; mowing, 30 a, \$600; tillage, 5 a, \$137; pasture, 70 a, \$600; wood, 20a, \$486; unimproved land, 50 a, \$100. Total value \$3293. Total Tax, \$55.35!

Greate Concerte!

Ye Old Folkes of Leyden invite all ye lovers of good
musick to meet at ye

TOWNE HALL in said TOWNE OF LEYDEN

ON YE

21ST DAY OF FEBRUARY

**Anno Domini 1894, at 30 minutes past
seven in ye afternoon,**

To listen to a Concerte of Sacred and Worldly Musick, to be
given by ye

**Greate Choir, consisting of Treble
Counter, Tenor and Bass Singers.**

Also solos by

**Dame Clark of New York City,
Mistress Severance and Good menne
Gates, Campbell and others.**

After ye Concerte ye Good menne will escort their Dames
and the young menne will invite ye maidens of their choice
to Partake of Supper in ye Dining Hall below, consisting of
old fashioned viands served on dishes of ye olden time.

One English Shilling will admit One Person to ye Concerte
and two York Shillings will be ye fee for ye Supper.

Ye young menne will be at hand to care for ye beasts and
chaises free of charge.

From Stetson's Printing House in ye Settlement of Greenfield.

"Gay Nineties" Concert Poster

Other interesting features of the 1892 report reveal that Leyden widows were allowed a \$500 exemption from assessed tax valuations. Instead of one "road man" as at present, there were 14 highway districts in 1892, and each district had a separate supervisor!

It was during the 1890 period that a number of outstanding Leyden citizens were coming of age. These residents, each of whom will be included in the genealogical section farther on in this book, were: Miss Ellen Brown, niece of H. K. Brown, later to become prominent in the nursing profession; Robert Allyn Budington, a future zoologist of note; Charles M. Davenport, future trustee of Williams College, and Frank B. Carpenter, later to become known as "the dean of Richmond, Virginia, chemists." These and other prominent citizens, including the historian and musician, Chester W. Severance, made up Leyden's "1890" notables.

Typical of the kind of entertainment popular in the 1890's, the "Great Concerte" poster reproduced here reflects the humor and gaiety of the times.

The Year 1895 — Leyden's Rocks Studied: Though Edward Hitchcock, the pioneer geologist of this area, had made a survey of the overall rock structure in Leyden as early as 1850, it was not till 1895 that President Emerson of Amherst College made a systematic study of the Leyden rocks.

The history of any town, actually should begin with its rocks, because nine tenths of our history is "written" in the stones which lie underfoot. Since this would involve much technical explanation, we will limit the rock story to the following brief analysis from the Hitchcock and Emerson surveys.

Within the borders of Leyden and near its boundaries are three distinct types of underlying rocks, formed during widespread intervals of prehistoric time. On the eastern borders of the town is a small outcrop known as Devonian strata formed in the Devonian Sea many millions of years ago. Here is found the magnetite iron ore mined during the Revolution. West of this area, in Eastern Leyden, there is an older type of rock of Silurian age. This is known as Leyden Argillite and was named for the town because of the abundance of this soft, slaty stone in east Leyden. Farther west, there is a division of the Silurian-age rock. It becomes harder, contains bright mica garnets and outcrops of a brownish limestone. This is known as Conway Schist.

Other interesting Leyden rock features, to be fully described

in the nature section, include: 325-million-year-old fossils of coral and crinoid stems; an outcrop of copper and gold; a curious tip-tipping rock; Meetinghouse Rock; and "Sweetheart's Chair."

The Years 1897-1899: The first telephones in Leyden were installed about 1897. The pioneer line, known as the Nelson Telephone Line, came in from the east, with wires strung on trees along the Keet Brook Road. The route covered Beaver Meadow, Frizzell Hill and the valley east of the Center. In open country, chestnut poles were furnished by residents using the service. Among the subscribers on the Nelson Line were: Simon Keet, Horace Newton, Fayette Potter, Messrs. Longwell and McIntyre, Alfred and William Black, Herbert Frizzell, Leon Severance, Will Barber, Stephen Budington, Albert Wright and Frank Foster.

This line covered the eastern and east-central parts of town. Charges were \$1 to \$1.50 per month. Bills were collected in person by Mrs. Nelson who set out each pay day in horse and buggy, taking no chances on mail collections!

From the west, a second telephone circuit entered Leyden via Heath and Colrain where a "magneto exchange" had been opened as early as 1884. There were sixty parties on the Heath Line near the turn of the Century. Rates were \$1. a month. Both the West Leyden and East Leyden telephone circuits were completely controlled by the New England Telephone & Telegraph Company by 1932. It is interesting to note, that while it took only 15 or 20 years for the telephone to reach the Leyden hills, it was fifty years after their invention before electric lights brightened the Leyden homesteads.

Leyden in the Spanish-American War: As a result of that memorable February 15, 1898 when the Battleship Maine was blown sky-high in Havana Harbor, we have the following record from the Adjutant General's Office in Boston: "Fred Severance of Leyden, enlisted Worcester, October 12, 1899, Company I, 43rd Regiment, U. S. Volunteer Infantry. Discharged March 2, 1901, at Manila, Philippine Islands, with the rank of Corporal." Though other Leyden enlistees doubtless joined in the fight, the aggregate representation, like that of other New England hill towns, was not large, due to the unpopularity of the conflict.

Leyden at the Turn of the Century—1900: At this happy period in the country's history as the bells of the 19th Century rang in the 20th Century, and the tunes of "Sweet Rosy O'Grady" and "Bicycle Built for Two" tinkled from every parlor piano, Leyden is described in glowing terms in a special metropolitan

news article. The "Mayflower" town is pictured as a beautiful village in the hills "where good health, pure water, clean air and plain, wholesome food abound; where there are no doctors because there is little sickness; where there are no hotels or liquor stores; where one may live comfortably on \$300 a year!"

The article goes on to point out that though there are few luxuries in Leyden and homes are lighted by kerosene lamps, telephones "have recently been installed," and while the nearest railroad is ten miles distant, two R. F. D. deliveries serve the town. "There are no manufacturings in Leyden," the writer adds, "but one man is said to be worth \$700,000, nearly all in gilt edge."

"The women tend flower gardens in the summer and have flower pots in the winter," the writer continues. "The town pastor officiates at the little white church for the modest sum of \$500. annually."

The article concludes: Many of the people of these hills are modest philosophers. They see something more than the everlasting bread and butter problem. They are quaint of speech and plainly garbed, but the milk of human kindness of these Pilgrim descendants is in them to a marked degree. Let trouble come and how gentle is the sympathy, not alone in words, but in deeds. "Live plainly," they say. "Be contented have plenty of sleep; work regularly, but with moderation; think and read and remember there are but few essentials; have innocent pleasures; avoid excitement; worship God, and be kind."

Early in the new century, the first residents from Continental Europe began to settle in Leyden. Czechoslovakia was represented by Stephen Muka; Poland, by Andrew Koshinsky; Germany, by John Glabach and Conrad Croutworst.

The Year 1906: It was at this time that the old water wheels on Keet's Brook made their final turns. Simon Keet had passed away, and with his passing, the stone grain grinding mill, the saw mill, and the turning mill became silent. These were the last of Leyden's mills. In fact, at this time, many small New England mills were closing down because of competition from large urban concerns.

As Leyden's Centennial approached, the townsmen began as early as 1906 to prepare for the great event, and in August of that year dedicated a new church bell which had been erect-

ed in the belfry of the Methodist Meeting House. People came from all directions to participate in the celebration.

"At 12 noon," the story goes, "the bell was rung to announce dinner, and after the physical man had been fed, the bell was rung again to call the people together for mental and spiritual nourishment." The bell was to be used, the donors stipulated, "without regard to sect or denomination."

The dedication of this bell in Leyden, U. S. A. reminds us of the story of the first bells installed in the Pilgrim sanctuary of Leiden, Holland. It is said that the Leiden bells rang with a high, sweet note as the English Pilgrims entered Leiden; and thereafter, whenever God's pattern was being worked out.

1909—The Leyden Centennial: On August 15th of this year, the Franklin Gazette, leading weekly of the area, carried a five-column spread covering Leyden's Centennial celebrations. Typical of such occasions in New England's hill towns, people flocked from hither and yon to participate in the festivities. "It was a rare midsummer day," one enthusiastic newsman reported, "with the purest of breezes blowing over the hills. It brought 500 persons to observe an extremely interesting celebration. At 10 o'clock, a parade that was unique if not expensive proceeded from the Town Common to the village store and from there to Miner's Grove behind the church where the exercises were held."

At the head of the procession rode the Reverend E. G. Hooper and Frank R. Foster mounted on white horses. Following came the colorful Pocumtuck Band from old Deerfield. The town fathers, E. P. Howes, F. A. Wilder and S. B. Budington came next with Chester W. Severance, choir leader, in their wake. The oldest citizen, C. C. Severance, then 97 years of age, followed in a carriage; the youngest citizens represented by two baby girls were wheeled in a 100-year-old perambulator. Nine veterans of the Civil War marched in the line which was complimented by three horse women in costume and three horsemen: Thurman Keet, Guy Severance and Harry Larabee.

In his Centennial address, Chester W. Severance reviewed the early days of Leyden. He said that Leyden's first pastor, the Elder Joseph Green, came from Rhode Island in 1775 and settled on the Old County Road south of the H. K. Brown birthplace. Severance reviewed Leyden's early postal history and the history of the taverns. He revealed that Leyden had produced 11 preachers, 4 lawyers, 12 doctors and given 32 soldiers in the Civil

War, seven of whom never returned. He told of a terrible tornado which swept over the Leyden Hills, leveling barns and carrying small buildings over hill and dale; and of the nine bridges over Green River which were swept down current in the "great fresh-et." Unique places of note in Leyden he listed as Daniel's Peak, Jacob's Well, the great Rolling Stone, Meeting House Rock and Rattlesnake's Den.

On August 22, 1909, the Boston Sunday Post ran a feature story covering eight, 4 generation families of Leyden. The lead of this article read: "Bay State Town Lays Claim to Discovery of the Secret of Longevity." The Combined Ages of 32 persons representing different generations in each family reached the stupendous figure of 1415 years! The article went on to reveal that several Leyden citizens were near the century mark, and that Leyden had the youngest great-grandmother in New England—a lady only 67 years of age. The writer claimed that Leydenites lived at least 20 years longer than "ordinary people."

The eight, 4-generation families listed in the Post were (1) Mrs. B. C. Baker; her daughter, Mrs. Budington; her daughter, Mrs. Baines-Griffith; her daughter, Ruth. (2) Ezra Wright 87; Albert L. Wright; Fred Wright, and daughter, Dorothy. (3) Mrs. N. J. Vining; her daughter; her granddaughter, Gratia (Mrs. W. A. Campbell); and her great-grandson, Harold Vining Campbell. (4) Headed by Cephas Severance, aged 97. (5) Headed by Mrs. G. A. Howe, aged 85. (6) Headed by Mrs. Laura Park, aged 73. (7) Headed by Mrs. Elizabeth Strange, aged 80. The 8th four generation family included great-grandmother Mrs. A. J. Frary, aged 67; Henriette Park, aged 52; Mrs. Houghton, 36, and her daughter, aged 15. At one time Mrs. Frary was a great-great-grandmother.

During the Leyden Centennial, a canvass of the older residents was made. It was found over half the villagers had been born and brought up in town; that a score were over 70; 15 were over 80; and nine others were within ten years of the century mark. In years past, one man had reached the ripe old age of 115!

Many genealogical puzzles resulted from the interrelationships of the eight 4-generation families which made up a large part of the town's population in 1909. Mrs. Laura Park, for instance, while the mother of one family, was also the mother of the husband of the grandmother of another family!

The Centennial which attracted visitors from as far away



Robertson Memorial Library — Edith M. Howes, Librarian

as Chicago, wound up with a stirring verse by the village poet, Henry A. Budington, and a rousing "Stars and Stripes Forever" by the brass band. Though not officially mentioned in the records, it is more than likely that Will Barber and Edward Howes, first Leyden owners of automobiles, proudly demonstrated the speed of their vehicles by racing past the awed spectators at the dizzy rate of 25 miles an hour!

The Year 1910: Mr. Frank Tilden, at one time a Rocky Mountain prospector, moved to West Leyden early in the 20th Century and built himself a log cabin in one of the wildest sections of the town. In 1910, while roaming the woods west of his home, he located a rich mineral vein in ledge outcrop.

The late Bert Whitney of West Leyden recounted that he worked with Tilden opening this mine and that samples of the ore contained a high percentage of copper. Due to the inaccessibility of the strike, however, no extensive operations were carried out by Tilden.

In time, the claim was purchased by the Miners of West Leyden. Fifty picks and fifty shovels were ordered, but progress was so slow without modern drilling tools that the project soon was abandoned.

In his Centennial address, C. W. Severance stated that the ore from this mine contained, besides copper, "a fair percentage of gold and silver." Harold Campbell of Leyden bears out this statement. He says that Mr. Tilden once presented him with a fine specimen of Leyden quartz rock with a vein of gold running through it.

This mine, though partly filled in, still is visible. It is in one of the wildest sections of the area, one half mile west of the River Road. In this region, experts with Geiger counters recently located radio-active elements.

The Leyden Library Association—The Robertson Library: In 1913, on land donated by A. J. Shattuck "so long as it shall be used for a Library," James P. Robertson of New York erected the present Leyden Library building. It is a one-room structure with native stone fireplace and large picture window which looks eastward toward Leyden's high hills. The library was dedicated to Mr. Robertson's Leyden parents, Roswell Robertson and Mary (Wheeler) Robertson.

The Leyden Library Association was formed April 4, 1883, with Chester W. Severance as first president. Its purpose was "to promote the growth of morality and insure a higher intellec-

tual standard in Leyden." The first books for the library were kept upstairs over Mrs. Mowry's general store. In 1885, however, with a list of over 50 members, the library was moved to the selectmen's room in the new Town Hall. Mrs. Harris Newcomb was appointed librarian.

Early Leyden library books were loaned out "one to a customer" and in the flyleaf of each book appeared this forbidding notice: "Whoever willfully or maliciously or wantonly writes upon, injures, defaces, tears or destroys any book, plate or engraving belonging to this Library shall be punished by a fine of not less than five nor more than Fifty Dollars, or by imprisonment in the jail, not exceeding six months."

In 1917, a fine microscope was donated to the library by Ada Darling "for the children of the town." The instrument was formerly the property of Fred O. Darling, who lived on the old Budington place. In 1925, Eva Carey Watson of Montague presented the Library with the valuable Rufus Thornton collection. These books were placed in the Leyden Library by Emily Ewer and Gratia Campbell, Library Trustees.

In 1938, there were 2260 books in the library, with 38% of the townspeople using them. The pioneer Leyden families of Newcomb, Davenport, Mowry and Miner were represented by Leyden's librarians. The present library head, Edith M. Howes, has been Leyden's book custodian for over 25 years.

Television and radio have cut into reading inclinations, and the small hill town libraries have suffered noticeably from the intellectual reverse. However, it is now reported that a reaction has set in and particularly energetic librarians in the hill towns are beginning to woo back some of their "wandering sheep."

Leyden—1915: With the advent of the popular automobile during the early days of World War I, the steepest roads in hill country were re-graded, or routes were changed to accomodate the limitations of the "Model T." Thus it was that Leyden's original Eden Trail was re-routed at this time from the picturesque and beautiful, to the more "navigable" line of communication. In West Leyden, final readjustments in the Colrain boundary were made in July 1915.

This same year, the merchants of Greenfield organized a soft drink business, with Leyden's pure water as a base. Though the ten-flavored assortment retained a semblance of its basic purity through the name "Glen Brook Soda," the soda itself completely camouflaged the water from the "Falls of Leyden,"

and large cases of the rainbow-colored concoctions were delivered, without apology, to the Leyden country store. During the early days of Sunday driving and roadside stands, the Glen Soda business prospered, but in time business declined, and now both Leydenites and Greenfield people drink their Glen Brook water straight!

Leyden in World War I: With the entry of the United States into the world conflict in April 1917, despite President Wilson's efforts toward peace, the picture changed. The popular tune "When You Wore a Tulip" changed over night to "Johnny Get Your Gun," "Over There" and "Keep the Home Fires Burning." Thirteen Leyden men responded to the call for enlistees, while those at home increased their farm output, bought Liberty Bonds and sedulously observed "meatless and wheatless days" each week.

Today, just north of the Leyden Church, there stands a rough granite boulder with bronze plaque which reads: "Honored Men of Leyden who Served - 1917—1919." The names on the plaque are: Edward R. Frizzell, Ray D. Miller, Edward Benway, Michael S. Muka, George D. Rowe, Fred G. Staiger, John Staiger, George Smilley, Earl P. Tabor, Joseph Wentworth, Herman A. Wiemers, Ray B. Wood and Arthur Woodard. Edric W. Cook of Leyden served in the Near East during this conflict, while Edward Smith put in two years as an Air Force pilot in France. Stanley Richardson also is a veteran of World War I.

It may be noted, that in Leyden as in most New England communities, representatives from the oldest colonial families, and recent citizens from the Continent, are listed together on the same service roster.

CHAPTER IX

Leyden — 1919 - 1945

During the post-war years, while President Wilson battled for United States membership in the League of Nations, Leyden and other like New England towns, kept to a pattern of simple pastoral life, free from "entangling alliances." Because of its hill-top position, it was not invaded by those who would exploit its history, nor did "summer people" take over its leading homesteads.

Reflecting the "jazz age," the young people (and the old, too) rode around in shiny new cars and saw more of the neighboring country in one Summer than their forebears had seen of it in a lifetime.

Radio, first introduced into Leyden in 1921, caught on fast, and soon many residents were tuning in distant cities hitherto but vague names in geography books. Spencer C. Howes put Leyden on the radio map by obtaining a license to operate amateur station W1ARH. Soon such popular radio tunes as "Whispering," "Who?" and "Sitting on Top of the World" were whistled or hummed in all the fields and savory kitchens of the town.

In 1922, the first Russians, Leo and Mary Melelica, settled in Leyden. Their appearance at this time was perhaps an indirect reflection of the storms and social upheavals which had beset their native land since 1917.

Since Leyden depended neither on industry nor manufacturing, the great depression which followed the Coolidge-Hoover administrations in 1929 did not affect the hill town to any great extent, though there was some deterioration in farm property during this critical period. In 1930 the Town Hall burned but was soon replaced by a new building nearly opposite the Church.

In 1932, as the New Deal was about to enter the picture, the first electric power was introduced to south and central Leyden. This date coincided with the electrification of other hill towns in the area.

1935—The Leyden Post Office in Retrospect: Soon after the introduction of the Works Project Administration, W. P. A. programs were hesitantly adopted in many of the rock-ribbed hill towns of New England. Leyden, perhaps at the nadir of its exis-

tence at this time, did not benefit from these programs as did its urban neighbors. In fact, Leyden (and other hill towns like it) became a victim of government economy moves. On November 30, 1935, the Leyden Post Office, active for over 107 years, ceased to exist. And in losing its Post Office, the town lost something of its identity in the world—an identity which we sincerely hope will be regained in the years to come.

Looking back on the history of the Leyden Post Office, we find some colorful stories of the early mail service in the area. C. W. Severance recounts that "in the early days" the mail was brought to Leyden from Greenfield by any resident who happened along. The bundle of Leyden newspapers was labelled "Peleg Babcock" with each subscriber's name on his paper. But on the news sheet of the man who was to go for the next mail was written: "Your Turn Next."

According to John H. Newcomb, the first Leyden Post Office was in the general store, south of the Tavern. Reuben Sheldon became the first Postmaster on January 10, 1828. There was then one mail in and one mail out of Leyden each week. Eighteen postmasters followed Sheldon. These included Benjamin Coolidge who took office after Sheldon in 1840; Abel Carpenter took over in 1843; Edwin C. Cross in 1849; John Mowry, in 1850; Albert Field in 1857; Thos. Vining, 1861; Benj. Taylor, 1865; Nancy Vining, 1866; Uriah T. Darling, Jr., 1878; Manley Mowry, 1883; Lilla Mowry, 1892; M. Dayton Miner, 1901; Elsie Miner, 1913; Alice Miner, 1922; Laura Smith, 1922; Chas. Severance, 1925; Edith Howes, 1934.

On November 2, 1896, the first Rural Free Delivery service of this area and the fourth in the United States, was established. In 1900, an R.F.D. route was run out of Bernardston to East Leyden, but no R.F.D. service from the Leyden Post Office was established until 1921 when Charles Bolton was assigned to serve as Leyden's R.F.D. carrier—a post he filled till the close of the Leyden office in 1935. At the same time, a Star Route from Greenfield to south and central Leyden was covered by George Staiger. After more than 23 years in the Staiger family, this route was taken over by Philip Koshinsky in 1951.

Before the advent of R.F.D. service, that is, before 1896, Leyden had two post offices — the main office in the center and a branch office near the bridge in West Leyden. It was at this branch office that assistant postmistress, Nettie Denison, made

herself particularly popular with the children by handing out sugar plums and cookies along with the mail.

Mail deliveries in Leyden are more difficult than in most rural areas because of the precipitous hills on which the town is located. In 1833, Reuben Sheldon, purchased a one-horse sleigh and a wagon for \$44 presumably to facilitate mail deliveries in winter and summer to the more remote parts of town. Sheldon's was not an official R. F. D. or Star Route, but was the beginning of a private delivery system whereby mail was delivered to favored citizens—for a price.

By 1858 the Post Office had been moved to the "New Center" and was in the country store of R. H. Taylor. That was the period when only one mail was delivered each week. By 1909, however, history records there was one daily mail in and out of Leyden in addition to R.F.D. service through which a majority of the townsmen received their mail at the door. During this period, East Leyden was served from Bernardston. West Leyden was served from the central Leyden office by a Star Route covered successively by Frank Foster, Albert Shattuck, Titus Williams, Stebbins Severance, John Newcomb and Will Smith.

After the closing of the Leyden office in 1935, the town was served by the Greenfield Star Route and by the R. F. D. from Bernardston. This latter route was covered for many years by Leon Nelson, with donkey and sleigh or cart. It's said that one hard winter when the snow was piled sky-high, only the tips of the donkey's ears could be seen as he plodded along the East Hill mail route. When Mr. Nelson retired, he became so homesick for the Leyden hills, he sometimes drove over the accustomed roads in the dead of night.

In 1941, Fred G. Huber of Northfield took over the Leyden R. F. D. covering Eden Trail, Beaver Meadow and West Leyden. Though a difficult run in winter, Mr. Huber has maintained a fine record for mail deliveries, and typical of the best of mail carriers, never refuses to do a kindly errand.

1941 — Leyden Church Centennial with Background Church History: Early in 1941, an elaborate program for celebrating the Centennial of the Leyden Methodist Church was drawn up by leading members of the congregation. Special Sunday evening services were planned from June 22 though August 10th. The church itself was to be renovated, inside and out; an Old Home Sunday with "two great preaching services" was planned, and a secular celebration for Labor Day was mapped

out. In conclusion, a souvenir booklet was proposed to outline the history of the Methodist and other Leyden churches. From this booklet and from other ecclesiastical town sources, the following church history has been developed.



As early as 1780, the first Leyden Baptist group was organized under the leadership of Elder Joseph Green of Rhode Island. Having no church in which to worship, initial meetings were held in private homes, in barns and groves, or at the well-known Meetinghouse Rock. Meeting places, it is recorded, sometimes were lighted by great burning pine knots.

The first reference to a Leyden meeting house is found in the October 1785 town records when it was voted "to see if the people will agree to build a meetinghouse . . . and if so what measures they will take and where they will sit it."

As early as 1786, it was proposed to do something about leasing out the Ministry Lot, presumably to raise money for the meeting house. This Ministry Lot was in the eastern part of town, near the head of Eden Trail. It was on high, rocky ground, and though near the center of the original Fall Town grant, was not a suitable spot for a church in 1785 because of the shifting centers of population.

In 1795 the Leyden District voted to raise 350 pounds to build a meeting house. It was in March 1796 that "a structure 40 ft wide and 50 ft long with two convenient stories" was proposed. This building was to "sit" near Richard Grinnels house, opposite the Tavern. When disputes arose as to the location, a com-

mittee from outside Leyden was called in to arbitrate the issue. Reflecting probable Dorrilite interference at this time, it was decided soon after, to reconsider all votes that had been passed respecting a meeting house or its location.

Meanwhile, a company of townsmen, tired of fruitless wrangling, got together under the name of Meeting House Proprietors and in 1797 erected the first Leyden church-meeting house on a high point half a mile southwest of the present center. Uriah Wilbur, Ezra Foster, Benjamin Green and Abel Carpenter headed the building committee. In October, 1797, Leyden voted to raise \$1,000. for the purchase of the new structure, but a month later this vote was reconsidered. Again, the Dorrilites appear to have been on the offensive. Outstanding members of this renegade clan were in town politics and an established church center could easily become a rival to Dorrilite ambitions.

Despite this opposition, however, arrangements with the meeting house proprietors were finally made for renting the new building. On March 5, 1798, the first Town Meeting was held in the structure; and soon after this, the first church services were conducted therein by the new pastor, Asa Hebard, who had filled the place of the deceased Elder Green.

It may be remembered that in early New England, the Meeting House was used both for Sunday services and town meetings. According to George Sheldon in the History of Deerfield, the colonial Meeting House also was used to store emergency gunpowder either under the pulpit or in the steeple! As we have already noted, Leyden was no exception to this "safety" measure.

The only record of the old Leyden Meeting House interior appears in an 1815 deed from Benjamin Green to James Packer in which Green sells to Packer for \$35.00 "all rights in the Meeting House in Leyden, and the land belonging to same, with one undivided half of pew #2 on the lower floor and one eighth part of the two front pews in the Gallery." In 1816, Simeon Wells sold to John Corse, the grandfather of "Milwaukee Harriet" seat #1 on the lower floor for \$30. These two deeds indicate there were church pews on the lower floor as well as in the gallery, but apart from this, we have no other descriptions of the building. Today, the old Meeting House, stripped of its church "vestments," is used as a barn on the Mowry Mountain Road where it was moved soon after the Civil War.

The Elder Asa Hebard, who took over the reins of the

Leyden church in 1798, recorded the following family history: "Asa Hebard, born in Windham Conn, 1755, married Jan. 1, 1783, in Norwich, Conn, Abigail Armstrong, born April 21, 1762 in Norwich. Elder Hebard & family came to Leyden from Putney Vt. & took over the Pastoral care of the Church & People of Leyden, April 25th 1798."

During his pastorate, the Rev. Hebard, who resided in West Leyden on Hebard Brook, preached in the Leyden Meeting House on alternate Sundays—first to the Baptists, then to the pioneer Universalists. Apparently the Rev. Hebard was a diplomat as well as a man of God. He preached in Leyden until his death in 1830, after which time the local Baptist church began to disintegrate.

While the Baptists formed the only church group during the formative years of the town, the Methodists began to organize early in the 19th Century — about 1810 to be exact. Having no place in which to worship, the Methodists, like the early Baptists met in private dwellings, barns, schoolhouses and groves. The meeting of early Leyden churchgoers in woods and groves suggested the name "Church Woods" for the Leyden plan which combines conservation, with reverence for the purity and wholeness of unobstructed nature.

In 1841, thirty-eight members of the Methodist Episcopal Church raised sufficient funds for the erection of a Methodist Meeting House, with Jonathan Budington heading the list. Among other prominent family subscribers were the Severances, Frizzells, Chapins, Potters, Shattucks, Wilkins, Fosters, Newcombs, Wilburs, Denisons and Sheldons.

It is particularly interesting to note that Stephen Dorril, son of the founder of the rebel Dorrilites, is listed among the Methodist church subscribers. In fact, a number of full-fledged Dorrilites, including Amos Burrows of Leyden and Bernardston, joined orthodox churches, despite the popular belief that one-time Dorrilites never became members of the church.

By 1842, the Methodist Church was completed at a cost of \$1500. But soon difficulties arose. A split occurred over the question of slavery, and the Methodist Episcopal became the Wesleyan Methodist with the Reverend John Tate as pastor. C. W. Severance writes of this period: "The house at Packer's Corner was used for meetings during the great church reformation." The "house" was just over the Vermont line on Ethan Allen Highway. Severance also states that the Reverend Sabin

Clark was the first Methodist preacher in 1810, and that the Reverend Gibson brought the first kerosene lamp to Leyden in 1854.

It was not till 1865 that the Leyden Methodist church was revived under the able guidance of the Rev. Frank C. Morse, a Civil War veteran and member of the New England Conference. In 1865, when Morse came to Leyden, the church was at low ebb as a result of Civil War controversies. An indication of the spirit he instilled in the church is revealed by the 1869 figures which show an attendance of 100 to 150 at the Central Leyden Meeting House, and about 100 at West Hollow Parish. Before the erection of the East Colrain church, "West Hollow" parishioners met in a hall above the living quarters of Mr. Frank Thompson of East Colrain. This is the present home of O. R. Lynde.

Outstanding families in the reorganization of the church in 1866 were the Budingtons, Chapins, Darlings, Denisons, Greens, Miners, Morgans, Newtons, Newcombs, Severances, Taylors.

In 1873, a Chapel was built in East Colrain, and in 1875 a separate church society was organized in the "West Hollow" district with members of the Leyden Church who lived near the river, transferring to the Colrain Church. The Leyden pastor served both the Center and Hollow parishes.

As early as 1868, the Leyden Church joined the Methodist Camp meetings at Hatfield, Massachusetts. In 1892, Leyden and East Colrain parishes built a cottage at the well-known religious center of Laurel Park near Northampton. That same year, a young people's church organization was formed as the Young People's Christian League. As previously recorded, a church bell was presented to the Methodists in 1905 by Briggs and William Potter of Watertown. It was not till 1906, however, that the gift was dedicated and "The Bells of Leyden sang." At this time, cushions were presented to the church by William W. Davenport and a carpet was given by C. A. Marcy of Colrain. The Newcomb brothers of Greenfield gave a hanging lamp with bracket. During his pastorate, the Reverend Charles B. Lawrence, with his daughter's help, painted and decorated the church, steeple and all, inside and out!

In 1939, the Church of Leyden was consolidated with the Methodist Episcopal, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church to form the Methodist church of Leyden.

The following Methodist ministers were natives of Leyden: Benjamin N. Bullock; Edward N. Crossman; James W. Mowry; Edmond S. Potter; Norris Stearns.

Methodist pastors who preached in Leyden from 1900 include: Rev. E. D. Lane (1902-1905), later a physician in Andover, Mass.; Jonathan Cartmill (1905-1908), later the pastor of Cambridge Trinity Church; Robert Thorne (1914-1915); Leroy Lyon (1915-1916), went from Leyden to a pastorate in Gloucester; Anthony E. Roberts (1916-1919); Cato Dick (1925-1926), went from Leyden to a pastorate in Springfield, Mass.; Charles B. Lawrence (1928-1932), from Leyden to Lanesboro and Winchendon; Carlos Gosnell (1934-1937), from Leyden to take over the Herford Circuit in Maryland; Reuel K. Rust (1937-1942); William A. Knight (1943-1958); Carl E. Mills (1958-).

Active Leyden church officers today include Mrs. Edith Howes, Mr. and Mrs. George Howes, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Glabach, Mrs. Austin Dobias, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Herron, Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Glabach, Mrs. Kornelius Kennedy, Mrs. Gertrude Bolton, Judson Ewer, Mrs. Russell Howes, Mrs. Gilbert Barton, Douglas Barton and Mrs. Wayne Fisher.

The Leyden Universalist Society was organized in 1830 with Nathan Hale Smith, its pioneer pastor. This society survived only 3 years, but was reorganized in 1867 as the Universalist Church of Leyden. Prominent in this group were the Fosters, Carpenters, Keets, Davenports and Shattucks. Eli Wing Packer was a pioneer in the 24 member group. As previously pointed out, the Leyden Meeting House was used by Methodists and Universalists alike. The former used the church 3 Sundays each month; the latter had it on the 4th Sunday. The final regular meeting of the Leyden Universalists was in 1898.

Several old-time church customs prevail to this day in Leyden. To raise money for special church events, a grab-bag basket is sometimes passed around town. It may start on its way with offerings such as canning rubbers, water glasses and tin pie plates. The first to receive the basket "buys" what he wants from the displayed wares, then drops a few coins into a slotted tin box provided for this purpose. He then adds a grab-bag article of his own to the collection, and passes the basket along to his neighbor.

Other Leyden church customs include the sending of flowers to those who are ill or bereaved. At Christmas-time, the Ladies Society sends attractive fruit baskets to all shut-ins; and at

Easter, special pageants are presented in the church. Early on Easter morning, a sunrise service is held each year on one of Leyden's highest hills.

No Congregational church was ever organized in the town of Leyden. This is unusual, as the Congregational Church was often the first religious group to be established in early New England towns.

Leyden in World War II: While Adolf Hitler was building up his war machine in Europe, the people of New England hill towns went quietly about their business, hoping against hope that this time, Americans would not have to fight abroad. With the 1939 Hitler thrust into Poland and the outbreak of war in Europe, Americans began to realize that Hitler was more than a loud-mouthed speech-maker. The tendency toward isolation persisted, however, and this continued through the early part of 1940 when "Hangin' Out the Washin' on the Siegfried Line" and similar "phoney war" ditties were on all lips. Even with the fall of Norway and France, a detached U. S. attitude persisted, and this continued, in Leyden and throughout the country until the fateful day of Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

When the United States entered World War II to the tune of "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," Leyden had four "Minute Men" in the service. They were: Roger Howes, Navy; Darwin Hine, Paratroop Corps; William C. Orr and David Baker, Air Force.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, many Leyden men volunteered for service; but two of these men never returned to the hills they loved. The first to lose his life in the service was Harry O. Wilder of the U. S. Signal Corps. Wilder enlisted in June 1942 but was lost at sea between Sicily and North Africa in November, 1943.

The second Leyden casualty of World War II was Willard Severance of the East Hill district. He enlisted February 15, 1944, and after very brief training at Camp Blanding, Florida, was sent to the European war theatre where he was killed in action, nine weeks after "D-Day," on August 14, 1944. Four years later, on October 29, 1948, he was interred in the South Cemetery, Leyden.

A complete list of Leyden men who served during World War II follows:

Malcolm V. Bailey, Marine Corps, 1943-45; Pacific Theater

David C. Baker, Master Sergeant, Air Force, 1941-1945;
Served in No. Africa and Italy

Arnold Black, Sergeant Specialist, Medical Corps, 1942-1946; Served in Africa and Europe

Wilhelm Glabach, Army Combat Engineer, 1943-1945; served on the Rhine River, Germany

Wayne Fisher, P. F. C., 1945-46; Motor Pool, Germany

George E. Howes, Radio Technician, 3rd Army, Germany and France, 1942-1945

Roger Howes, Naval Overseas Service, 1939-1945, Radio Technician, 1st Class; Virgin Is. and Balboa

Darwin D. Hine, Paratroop Service, South Seas, 1941-1945

Philip Koshinsky, Technical Sergeant, Air Force 1942-1945

Rose Koshinsky, Women's Army Corps, Flight Records, 1942-1945

Andrew McDonald, P. F. C., European Army service, wounded in action. Served 1942-1945

John Metelica, Air Force, Pacific Theater, 1942-1946

William C. Orr, 1st Lieutenant, Air Force "Flying Cadets"; Far East service 1941-1944

Kenneth W. Sevene, Seaman 1st Class; served in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, 1944-45

Willard Severance, Overseas Army service. Killed in action, August 14, 1944, France

Hugh L. Sloane, Specialist 1st Class, Coast Guard Patrol, Naval Air Base, Georgia, 1942-44

Harry O. Wilder, P. M., Signal Corps. Lost at sea while on duty, November, 1943

Leta Wood, Technician, 2nd Class, in WAVES. Served in California, 1943-1945

During his harrowing experience at the Battle of Lae Darwin D. Hine composed the following verse which first appeared in the Montpelier Argus:

Rain on My Old Tin Hat

As I lie in the mud exhausted,
My body tormented with pain,
My wounds, open and bleeding,
Are washed by a drizzling rain.
A wind caresses the hilltops
And sweeps across the flats,
And I seem to hear a message

From the rain on my old tin hat—
It tells me to keep on fighting;
That war will not take my life,
For the wind is the prayer of my mother,
The rain, the tears of my wife.

A feeling of great contentment
Is filling a once hopeless heart,
And I struggle a little bit farther—
Making my way through the dark;
For I know I'll keep on fighting—
That I'm going to make it back
Because I heard the message
Of the rain on my old tin hat.
It told me to keep on fighting
In spite of the pain and the strife
For the wind was the prayer of my mother,
The rain, the tears of my wife.

Newcomers in Leyden who served during World War II include: Charles Rigoll, X-ray technician who served in the Philippines; Walter Williams, Army engineer in the maintenance department; William Zimmermann, Sergeant-Major in the Army Engineer Corps of the Pacific; Gerald R. Brown; Sherman W. Gray; Walter Johnson; Quentin Weaver.

Leyden men who served in the U. S. Armed Forces after World War II and during the Korean War are: Arthur Beaudoin; George Brown; Frederick Croutworst; Raymond N. Flagg; Vernon K. Leach; Leo Metelica; Kenneth Phillips and George Pratt. Mr. Metelica served as sergeant in the engineering corps and had 18 months' service in Korea. Mr. Leach is an instructor at the Air Force Musical Academy in Denver.

Early in 1952, five or six years after the first jet plane rumbled through Leyden's skies, an aviation observation post was established west of Leyden's Old Center. This was the beginning of "Cold War" preparedness, and a round-the-clock vigil was kept by Leyden men and women who reported to New Hampshire headquarters whenever a plane of any kind was sighted on the horizon. Thus Leyden took an early part in the war of nerves which began shortly after World War II and continues to this day. The sonic "booms" of jet planes overhead today are a constant reminder of "cold war" preparedness.

Concluding Leyden's military history, we mention here the

Leyden Rifle Club which maintains a shooting gallery near the Old Center; and a rifle range in the northwest part of town. Aside from use by Leyden citizens, the State Militia uses the Rifle Club facilities for "preparedness" practice.

CHAPTER X

Leyden — 1945 - To the Present Day

The Farm Picture — Old and New: During Leyden's early history, oxen were used almost exclusively for heavy farm work, and as late as 1945, oxen still were seen in the Leyden hills pulling the spring plough. With the post-war advent of Diesel tractors, giant harvesting machinery and chain saws, the oxen have vanished and today even a horse is a rarity on Leyden farms. Since 1945, the Leyden population has increased by 35%.

In the past, Leyden has produced many interesting crops including broom corn, tobacco and cranberries. In olden times, Leyden was well known, too, for sheep raising and each year produced large quantities of wool. One farmer turned out as much as 10,000 pounds annually. In 1837, nearly 3,000 Saxony and Marino sheep produced over 3 pounds of fleece each.

The general character of Leyden soil is loamy. Due to the moderately high altitude, which averages about 1100 feet, grass and fruit thrive on the Leyden hillsides. As we have pointed out, the first orchard was established in West Leyden during 1780. Since that time many old-fashioned varieties of apples have been grown in Leyden. As many of these are now extinct, the following old-time varieties, as recalled by a Leyden native, are listed: Seek-No-Farther; None-Such; Sixteen Ounce; Sheep Nose; Pippin; Banana Apple; Golden Sweet; Crab; Blue Pearmain; Russet; Lyscom; Roxbury and Pumpkin. In 1820, when potatoes were selling for twenty-five cents a bushel, these apples brought just ten cents for a four peck measure!

Across Green River, in East Colrain, Aaron Carey, his son and grandson made names for themselves in honey production. In 1860, the Careys introduced the Italian bee to America. They built up production and soon had over 200 stands of hives.

The introduction of electric power and modern farming equipment in the New England hill towns, revolutionized farming methods. Less than thirty years ago, Leyden farmers were employing 19th Century practices in ploughing, planting and harvesting; they lighted their barns with lanterns, and their homes with kerosene lamps. In the early 1930's electric power was brought into the south and central sections of town, and in 1940, the REA supplied current to east and northern Leyden.

With the introduction of electricity, milking machines were installed everywhere, and within a few years elaborate milk coolers replaced the 40-quart milk can. Washing machines soon took the place of the tub and scrubbing board; and the ice house, once supplied from local winter ponds, soon vanished. One by one customers of the noisy ice truck dropped off as electric refrigerators and deep freeze units were installed. The battery radio was soon replaced by the "all electric," and now strains of such songs as "Yellow Rose of Texas" and "Patricia" issue from home and barn alike. Television screens, first introduced in Leyden experimentally on January 1st 1951, were particularly popular because of excellent reception in the high Leyden hills.

Tractors and bulldozers, a rarity on Leyden farms fifteen years ago, have become commonplace. One of the especially beneficial uses of the bulldozer is in opening up picturesque, fire protection ponds in swampy areas. Three such ponds were created during the great droughts of 1953 and 1957. These are located in East Leyden on the Howes, Hine and Baker farms.

In Leyden, as in other New England hill towns, farmers often share the use of agricultural machinery, and at harvest time help each other in neighborly fashion and bring in crops of hay, corn and potatoes — Leyden's chief farm products.

In July, Leyden's hilltops are dotted with city dwellers who flock to the cool slopes to pick large quantities of the wild blueberries for which Leyden is well known. In the Fall and Winter, the woods nearby are "populated" by householders who cut necessary fuel for their stoves and wood-burning furnaces.

Aside from the State Forest Reservation on the old Brown homestead, several Leyden residents have set out young trees as part of the Tree Farm program. In West Leyden thousands of hardy evergreens have been planted; in Central Leyden, Lewis R. Muka, has put in 10,000 locust, spruce and balsam trees, and plans to add 40,000 more soon. In East Leyden, near the wilderness waterfall, Charles W. Erhardt has set out many red, white and Scotch pines.

Homemade butter, attractively packaged maple syrup, milk and eggs are Leyden's chief by-products, and several prize herds of cattle, including the European Brown Swiss, stand out from Leyden's many blue ribbon bovines. In Leyden's active 4-H Club group, young members of the Herron family have

received a number of fine awards at the Eastern States Exposition for prize "heifers" raised on their father's farm.

Rounding out Leyden's farm picture, we mention here the Leyden Mink Ranch, a novelty in this area. This establishment is owned by Thomas E. List, Leyden's first selectman.

Particularly commendable, is the organic farming carried on by Mrs. Stanley Richardson of West Leyden. Huge vegetables and flowers of great beauty are raised on carefully prepared mulch beds built up from leaves, dead grass and other natural organic materials.

Recent road development in Leyden, while not conducive to heightening Leyden's natural beauty, helps the delivery of farm produce to the market. The trend is toward hard-surfacing direct routes to all sections of the town, with branch roads leading to remote areas. There is a tendency to eliminate any roads not essential for everyday travel, particularly those roads made impassable in the 1938 hurricane.

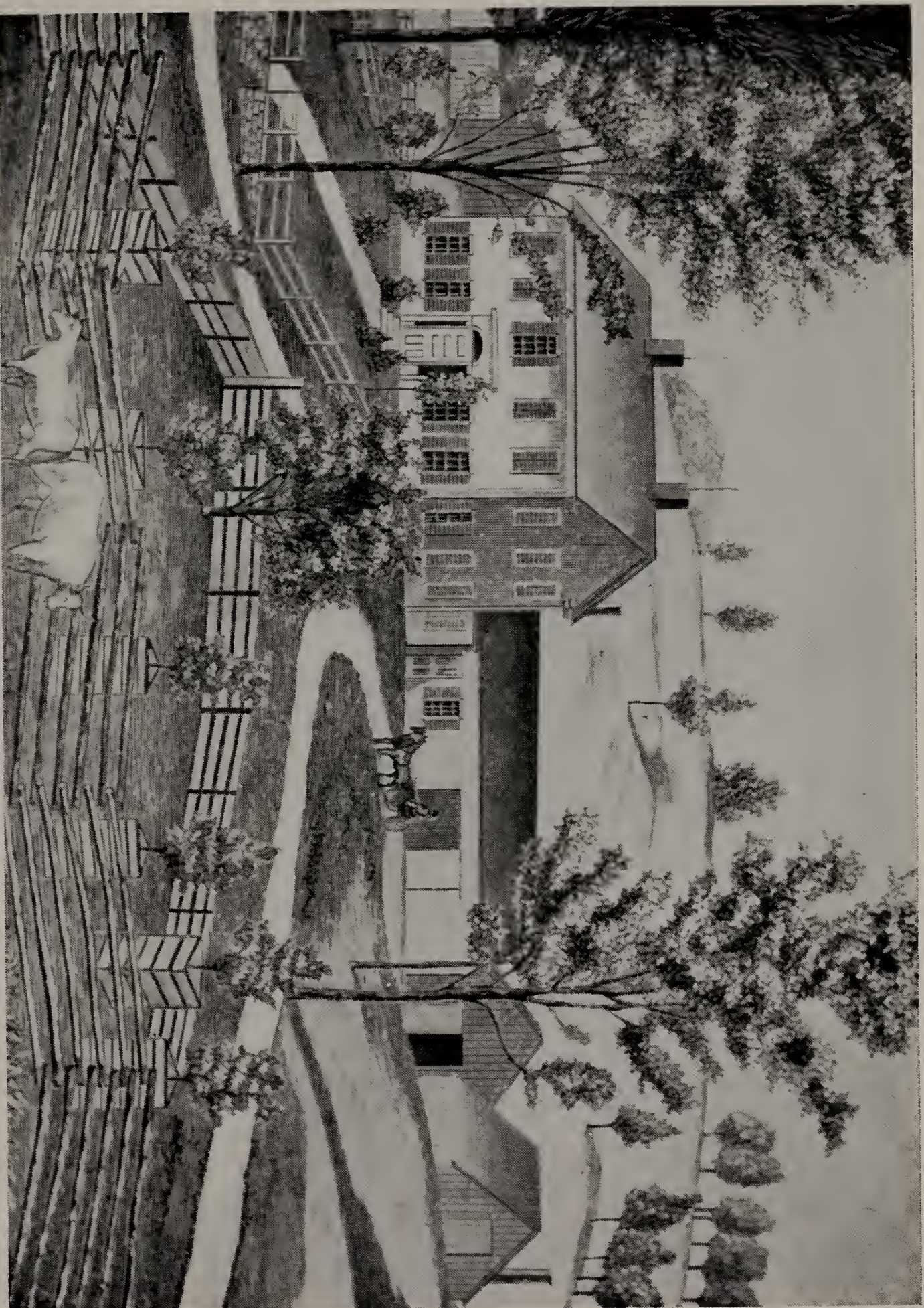
Leyden Weather, Past and Present: Extreme temperatures are not known in Leyden. Within a fifteen year period, 89 degrees above is the highest recorded; and with one exception, ten below is the lowest recorded during that period. But between these two extremes, there is weather aplenty!

Winters are rough in Leyden, as in most New England hill towns, and he who made the statement, "Winter is not a season — it's an occupation!" must have lived through a few Leyden stove-stoking seasons.

In the old days, as early as 1791, the snow on Leyden roads was "trod down" with oxen. Later it was pressed with huge wooden rollers. Today, roads are ploughed with a large Diesel crawler, and after heavy snowfall, private driveways also are ploughed out.

Twenty-five foot drifts were commonplace at the time of the "Blizzard of '88" and during the winter of 1946-47 banks of snow were piled "mountain high." The snows from the great March blizzards of 1956 and 1958 lingered in the hills till after May 1st. A few years ago, a freak spring storm dumped over four inches of new snow in Leyden on May 10th!

Leyden's first big hurricane was recorded in 1788; in October, 1797, a second tropical storm "with greate Rains" washed out all the roads in town; in 1818, a spring "freshet" hurled all Green River bridges downstream in a few minutes' time. In mid-19th century a "great blow" ripped through the town



Chapin Farm, Beaver Meadow, 1875

carrying barns and outbuildings sky-high over the neighboring hilltops. Winds, during the 1952 November storm, estimated at over 100 miles per hour, collapsed two large barns and tore the roof from one East Hill home. So strong are the winds on some Leyden elevations that houses are chained to ledge, alpine fashion, to keep them from blowing into the valleys.

Because of the proximity of bedrock, mild earthquakes are felt in Leyden, even when the center of the quake is hundreds of miles away. For this reason, a government seismograph station was erected near Leyden Center in 1949. With the change of administration in 1952, however, the project was abandoned before instruments were installed.

Rainfall in Leyden averages about 3.5 inches per month; but there have been rather frequent off-schedule down-pours. During the 1954 hurricanes, "Carol" and "Edna" dropped rain measuring 3 and 4.5 inches, respectively. The 1955 August storms dropped a total of nine inches, or an average of one inch per day from the 11th to the 19th of that month. In June, 1956, three inches of rain fell on Leyden's hills in exactly three hours.

Extensive research into the problem of Leyden's water supply, reveals that in East Leyden, water is stored in the underlying ledge, forming a "water table" which rises and falls according to the amount of rain fed into the ledge reservoir. Heavy rains may bring the level up a foot in one day; but in normal summer weather the table drops about one inch per day. A study of water levels in four wells at different elevations in one area of Leyden disclosed an inclined water table existed over the entire area. Water veins, so-called, are usually depressions in the underlying ledge — ledge valleys where water collects to the level of the surrounding water table. Indicative of the water-bearing ledge in the East Leyden area, one has only to go from a dry Summer location to a location 30 or 40 feet below, and there he will find water oozing from the "strike" of exposed ledge. Our erstwhile President, Herbert Hoover, once stated flatly that the water vein theory was the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American public; that water tables exist everywhere underfoot, at varying depths.

During the past decade, it has been noted that summer seasons have followed a rough pattern of one dry, then one very dry; one wet, then one very wet season. Thus the 1953 drought was followed by a normally wet summer; the 1955 summer was very wet; 1956 was on the dry side; then came the

very dry summer of 1957. The year 1958 was normal for rainfall, but abnormally cool. In fact, there were over 2000 degrees less heat than in 1957!

During the first six months of 1955, an interesting "weather forecasting" experiment was carried on between this writer and Dr. J. B. Rhine of Duke University. Through the scientific application of "extra sensory perception," Leyden weather was "forecast" for each 12-hour period, six months in advance, with amazingly good results.

Before concluding this section, we should like to record here a few of the original sayings and customs which have evolved in Leyden. It is said that on Candlemas Day in mid-winter the old-time farmer measured, with his eye, the cracks in the side of his barn, and noted the distance the sun reached through onto the floor. From this practice, according to Mildred Severance, the New England saying came about: "Just so far as the sun shines in; just so far will snow blow in."

The sight of barn swallows, in field or pasture, flying under the cows' bellies indicated that rain was near, according to Leyden's Elizabeth McDonald. When these swallows first appeared in the Spring, it was a sign that Leyden children might go barefoot.

A Leyden ghost story which ties in with the farm picture tells of robbery and murder which came as a prelude to spectral visitations. According to Herbert Darling, two Leyden yeomen, returning from a five-day oxen trip to Boston, reached a camping site on the Ethan Allen Highway about dusk. On a spot at the foot of the hill below the Old Center, they tethered out their oxen and pitched camp. Both men lay down to sleep. The older man, who had sold his produce for a good price, used his money bag for a pillow. During the night, the younger farmer, who had not fared well with his produce, murdered the old man in his sleep and made off with his money.

From that day to this, it is said one may hear the moaning and groaning of the murdered man if one happens past the dread spot at the exact hour the crime was committed on a sultry mid-summer night.

The Leyden Central School — 1951: Leyden Schools in Review. On September 10, 1951, a modern elementary school was opened southeast of Leyden Center, ending forever the days of "The Little Red Schoolhouse" in this town. The new building, erected at a cost of \$28,500, contains two well-lighted

classrooms, a kitchen and lunch room. In contrast to the old-time crackling woodstove, the modern school is heated by an "oil-fired boiler." The children are toted to and from the modern school building, seldom having to walk more than quarter of a mile.

The new central school replaces the five one-room schoolhouses, which for over 160 years sheltered the Leyden youth. These compact little buildings have been converted, one by one, into private homes.

We have already touched on the early history of the Leyden schools, beginning with the log schoolhouse in Beaver Meadow, the establishment of four, five and six Leyden school districts, the building of the first frame schoolhouses and the early introduction of coeducation in Leyden.

Though actual Leyden school records are rare indeed, we have been able to unearth the 1822 "Merit Awards" of Joseph Foster who attended the pioneer Beaver Meadow School. Between 1822 and 1823, Foster was presented with five awards by Edward Denison, Schoolmaster; in 1825 he was rewarded for good scholarship by Joseph A. Denison and A. C. Morgan. Similar awards were presented successively by Maria Newcomb, Eliza P. Flagg and F. M. Morgan — early Leyden teachers.

A very interesting statistical picture of the Leyden grammar school districts during the Civil War period is gleaned from the following 1865 record: Number of Leyden schools, 5; value of schoolhouses, \$2,000; pupils in school: Summer, 89—Winter, 111; pupils over 15 years of age attending, 40; between 5 and 15, 121; teachers, 4 male, 6 female; money appropriated for each child, \$6.45 (cost per pupil in 1958 was about \$300. or 45 times the 1865 outlay). Male teachers were paid \$30 per month in 1865; females \$23. The average length of the school year was 6 months, 4 days. As an example of the discipline maintained in Leyden schools at this time, the School Committee ordered that "schoolrooms be kept so still you can hear a pin drop at all hours of the day."

In 1879, the History of the Connecticut Valley reports that \$700 were appropriated for the support of Leyden schools and that the daily attendance that year averaged 100 pupils.

Under an 1845 heading, we referred to Leyden's first High School, the Wilkins' Leyden Glen Academy. The next school of higher learning in Leyden was the "Select School" which was

located in the old factory building where, according to Miss Ellen Brown, pupils were expected to furnish their own desks and chairs.

Next we hear of the "Select School" in the hall above the church. Though this hall was not licensed for school use, classes were held there, nevertheless, between church suppers. After the Town House was erected in 1884, and until 1910, the "Select School" pupils numbering as many as 45, attended classes in the new town building.

Today, Leyden "Select School" pupils, from Junior High School up, attend the large Pioneer Valley Regional School in Northfield. A few Leyden scholars attend schools of higher learning in Greenfield; others attend Arms Academy in Shelburne Falls.

Miscellaneous School Notes: Reaching back over the years to 1793, we find that Mayflower descendant, Daniel Newcomb, was a member of the first Leyden school committee. While Newcomb was appointed to oversee the Beaver Meadow school district, the Dorrilite, Ezra Shattuck, had charge of school matters on Frizzell Hill. Deacon Benjamin Baker was the first school committeeman in West Leyden; Israel Bullock and Elijah Wilbur supervised the first south and central schools in Leyden.

Early school districts were carefully laid out with definite boundaries. In 1793, for instance, the Frizzell Hill district was outlined as follows: "Beginning at the Northeast Corner of the lot that Wm. Dorril lives on, thence to the NW corner of sd. lot, from thence to the NW corner of Ezra Shattuck's land, thence southerly to the West side of Julius Chapin's land, thence south to Greenfield line."

Such surveys not only indicate the bounds of a specific school district, but are valuable in determining the approximate location of early settlers' homesteads. Space does not permit us to include all the early school district records which may be found complete in Leyden's Record Book #I.

According to Emily Foster Grant who attended the Beaver Meadow School when a girl, this schoolhouse was originally built with its back to the cemetery; but after its destruction by fire in 1909, the school site was moved south to a more cheerful location. We are told that the blue clay from Beaver Meadow Brook was used by Beaver Meadow students for modelling purposes.

Early in the 20th Century, both high school and grammar

school pupils attended classes in the Frizzell Hill one-room schoolhouse. The late Bessie Black recalled that one year she taught first grade "A. B. C's" and sophomore Latin in the same classroom!

Attesting to the hardiness of olden day schoolteachers, it is recounted that one Leyden school mistress, Mrs. Gertrude (Keet) Cook, rode 24 miles on horseback to and from her school each day. In order to reach her destination, she covered miles of difficult, hazardous roads, and forded a river!

The Leyden Camp and Summer School Picture Today: While Boy Scout troops have had sporadic organizations in Leyden, Scouts from neighboring towns now use Leyden's hills for Summer camping sites. One favorite site is in West Leyden near the one-time hermitage of William Dorril.

From 1938 to 1941, Leyden Boy Scout Troop #20 was active as an organized unit. Members of this Troop included, John Metelica, George Howes, H. O. Wilder, Roger Howes, William Orr and Douglas Barton.

A Girl Scout camp, known as Stonehenge, was organized in 1931. With the help of Greenfield Rotarians, a lodge was built on high ground near Leyden's southern border. Stone for the lodge was taken from a mill site near Greenfield's Factory Hollow. Though the camp originally accommodated local girls only, it now has broadened its membership so all Franklin County girls may attend.

Recently, an informal "riding club" was organized in Leyden. During Summer and Fall week-ends, members meet at the old Foster place on East Hill, now owned by Henry Labbee of Hatfield. Those who have joined the group transport their riding-horses in trailers to the Labbee farm then set out together on Leyden's old "Scout Paths" and Indian trails so admirably suited for horses.

In 1958, a Leyden club for young girls was organized with the aid of the Greenfield "Lions." This beautiful camp is close to "Stonehenge" and covers nearly thirty acres overlooking Greenfield Meadows. The club, now known as 'Lion's Knoll,' was opened in July, 1958. The land was donated, tax free, by the Town of Leyden.

A new school for speech therapy, known as "Merlin Farms," soon will appear in Leyden's hills. This institution will be located on the old Wood place in "The Meadow." It will be under the direction of speech experts from Glens Falls, N. Y.

Leyden's Stores, Shops, Mills and Taverns in Review: During the Eisenhower business boom in 1954 while dozens of modern roadside stands and shops were operating full tilt within the old Leyden Annex on Florida Mountain's Mohawk Trail, Leyden's last remaining general store gave up the ghost. With the departure of this and many similar hilltown country stores, we say "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" to the village storekeeper, the striped peppermint sticks, the molasses barrel and pot-bellied stove.

With the passing of this, Leyden's last store, a review of the long line of Leyden's shops and public places is in order. According to C. W. Severance, Leyden's informal historian, the first public tavern and store was kept by Thomas Wells (a nephew of Captain Agrippa Wells) on the old County Road. This statement is in dispute, as some authorities credit Joseph Fuller of Beaver Meadow with the first Leyden store. Doubtless this is correct, as we now know that the Beaver Meadow area was opened up in 1760. The County Road area, however, was not laid out till 1771. Added to this, we have old records which show that Joseph Fuller owned Lot #93 in Beaver Meadow at an early date. Hugh L. Sloane, antique expert, says that the back part of his house on Lot 93 in Beaver Meadow has a room which shows where store shelves were built into the walls.

As soon as the town center shifted to the County Road area, the business which Fuller had enjoyed, waned, and Thomas Wells gained a monopoly of the Leyden trade. Wells' store and tavern was on "Budington's Hill" but when the Church was built at the "Old Center," town business again shifted, and we find Paul Babcock operating a store, near Carpenter's Tavern. This was the store which Reuben Sheldon took over in 1828 and operated with the first Leyden Post Office. In 1858, this store was run by "M. Carpenter." It rivalled the Union Store and Post Office of R. H. Taylor in the New Center. Here, in 1871, U. T. Darling, Jr., sold "boots, dry goods, nails, meal and shoes." In 1883 the new center store housed not only the Post Office and groceries, but the Library as well! Will Barber took over the business in the late 1890's and Edwin P. Howes bought it in 1903.

Due to a prospering trade, Clifford C. Howes of Florida Mountain built an addition to the store in 1910. Soon after this, however, when the automobile became prevalent, the people of the village began to shop at the larger stores in "town" where variety was greater and prices less. From that time on,

business in the hill town country store dropped off sharply. Today the Leyden store has been remodelled and serves as a comfortable home for descendants of the Howes family.

We have already spoken of the Thomas Wells Tavern on Budington's Hill. It was probably the first tavern in Leyden, but when business slackened it was taken over, about 1820, by the Tanners. At this time the chief tavern business had gravitated toward the "Old Center" where Carpenter's Tavern stood opposite the Baptist Church. It is said Town Meetings were held in this tavern and there are records which prove that auctions were held there also. From this spot, hardy Leyden yeomen set out for Boston with ox carts laden with farm produce. In 1829, Carpenter's Tavern burned, but was rebuilt immediately. Business was brisk until 1846 when the Connecticut Valley Railway was put through in neighboring Bernardston. This sapped the stagecoach business on Ethan Allen Highway and Carpenter's Tavern soon became a private dwelling. It still stands today, the only remnant of Leyden's "Old Center" and of the pioneer stagecoach days.

Leyden Shops and Manufacturing Establishments: Besides the "Glen Spring Cheese Factory," Leyden has housed a number of interesting shops and plants. Old-time blacksmith shops, as listed in 1858, include one at the head of Meetinghouse Hill; one at the top of the hill on Keet's Brook Road and one near the old Babcock place in West Leyden. Today, one of the few remaining blacksmith shops in the area is carried on by Henry Glabach near the site of the original shop on Meetinghouse Hill. In 1858, a gun shop was located near the West Leyden bridge, and in this same location in the late 19th Century, three Lynde brothers, Bert, Cleveland and Charles, built up a wooden box shop which thrived until paper boxes were introduced.

A "Pots Pearl Ash Works" is said to have prospered in Beaver Meadow from 1790 to about 1810. The function of this plant was to filter, with brook water, the potassium carbonate from wood ashes. The lye thus obtained was used in making soap and other household products.

One business which ended in complete failure was a Poor House, built at great expense. The owner could find no tenants, and it is said the proprietor died in it penniless himself!

Grist, Saw, Fulling and Paper Mills in Review: The story of Leyden's mills begins with the 1766 record of Samuel Cunna-bell's saw mill on Couches Brook — close to the spot where the

Deerfield captives crossed in 1704. By 1792, this mill had been superseded by Cunnabell grist and saw mills on what is now Shattuck Brook. By 1811, Samuel Cunnabell sold his mills to Rufus Shattuck who lived on the present Leach place. Rufus was the son of the Dorrilite, Ezra Shattuck. In 1830, a fulling mill to process cloth was added to Shattuck's mills.

According to Thurman H. Keet, a descendant of the Leyden Keets, the Shattuck mills were purchased by Roswell Keet in 1848, and rebuilt. The up-and-down saw mill produced stone-boat plank as a specialty. It also turned out plane blocks, shingles, broom handles and lath. The companion grist, or grain processing mill, was one of the last in the area to operate as a stone grinding mill. Charges for handling raw grain were according to Mr. Keet, "one to two quarts per bushel."

After returning from the Civil War, Simon Keet, with his brothers, Charles and Henry operated the mills left to them by their father, Roswell Keet. Simon, who built the house opposite the original Keet place, ran the saw mill; Charles ran a turning mill which produced broom handles; and Henry, who married into the well-known Tyler family, ran the toll grist mill. Edric W. Cook, a great-grandson of Roswell Keet, recounts that teams were sometimes lined up for half a mile from the mills waiting their turns. Private mill business fell off sharply in the 20th Century, and by 1906 the Keet Mills became silent forever. One of the huge mill stones which operated the Keet grist mill, now in Mr. Cook's dooryard, is a silent reminder of the days that are no more.

The second largest mill site in Leyden was near the "Ten Mile" or West Leyden Bridge. In 1790, Jonathan Richardson operated a "saw and corn mill" on this spot. In 1810, John Mowry took over the business and, in competition with Shattuck in East Leyden, added a cloth fulling mill. According to recent findings, the Richmond family operated these mills in mid-nineteenth century. By 1871, however, the Denisons had taken over. In 1892, all mills had vanished from the site.

In the early days, there were mills at odd locations along the Green River. In 1785, pioneer William Clark operated a saw mill at the foot of Lamb Road. This was taken over a few years later by John Matthews of Colrain. In 1792, the first Denison mill of the area was opened at the foot of Katley Road near the river. In 1785, a saw mill belonging to Asher Corse — the Glen Brook



The Newcomb Homestead — East Leyden

Saw Mill — is mentioned in old town records. The 1794 map of Leyden locates most of these early mills.

The West Leyden Thorn mills, shown on the 1830 Leyden maps by Hoyt and Newcomb, indicate two mills on Thorn Brook. A turning lathe was added by 1842. On the west branch of Glen Brook, Jonathan Budington was operating two mills between 1825 and 1830. In 1871, Joseph O. Carpenter operated a saw mill on the Budington mill site, but by 1892 this mill had disappeared. In 1879 there were three saw mills, and three grist mills in Leyden, but in 1906 all water-powered mills were gone.

Clifford C. Carey of Colrain tells us of unusual plants and mills in and near Leyden. There was a large tannery just north of the Leyden-Vermont line, he recalls; and on the Thorn Brook opposite the entrance to the copper mine was a small mill which manufactured a coarse, brown paper. This was a rare establishment for the Leyden area. Mr. Carey also tells of a grist mill which stood near the Green River at the foot of the old Gates Road. This was built, in all probability, by an ancestor of Leyden's John L. Riddell.

Leyden Houses—Old and New: In Leyden today, there are over fifteen original, pioneer-built homes. Many of the oldest houses are the Cape Cod type and still contain such interesting features as great oak summer beams and huge square chimneys. The Newcomb house in East Leyden (the only American Leyden house built by a Leiden, Holland Pilgrim descendant) has a solid oak summer beam over thirty feet long. The Peter Gates house in West Leyden, home of John Riddell's mother, was torn down in 1908, but it is said to have been an exact replica of the Newcomb house. When demolished, many unusual antiques, including spinning wheels, oxen equipment and old-time utensils were discovered in the walls. A typical Leyden Cape Cod house, the pioneer Newcomb home in East Leyden, is pictured on the opposite page.

Of the Leyden houses with original central chimneys, a number remain. These include the old Cunnabell (McDonald) house on Couch Brook, the Britton house, the Hine home, the Sloane's, and Louise Johnson's. Hand-wrought Norfolk latches still remain in a number of the oldest homes, but the Blake machine-made latch has been substituted in many instances.

A perfect specimen of a late model kitchen fireplace, installed after parlor stoves were invented in 1816, and before

1860 cook stoves appeared, may be seen in the West Leyden Carpenter house, now owned by Mrs. Arthur Snow.

The oldest Leyden houses, together with ten or a dozen newer homes, have been rebuilt or renovated within the past decade. But no one in Leyden has yet followed the ludicrous practice of dressing up simple New England homes with plushy, millionaire accouterments!

Though the water-wheel mills, the store and tavern no longer operate in Leyden, there has been a definite upsurge in Leyden building since 1945. Besides reconstructed old homes, over 15 new private houses have been erected. A modern garage and cinder block fire house also have gone up.

Indicative of this new spirit of rebuilding in Leyden, several houses have lately been built on old foundations — on walls as true today as when laid nearly two centuries ago. Slowly but surely Leyden is building itself up — on its own power.

CHAPTER XI

Leyden's Natural History

While rapid material progress has been noted in Leyden's hills since the end of World War II, progress in the arts and in nature study has been more marked than at any time in Leyden's history. Though modern machinery roars and grinds in Leyden's woods and fields, and atom-minded men roam the hills with Geiger counters, a different, and to some, more significant progress, has been taking place in Leyden during the past decade: A number of Leyden's citizens have begun to work with pastels and paints; others have roamed the fields and woods and have made the first surveys of Leyden's rocks, ferns, birds and trees. One or two have taken to writing. This history is, in fact, an outcrop of Leyden's post-war "renaissance."

As a background to the artist's Leyden, we speak here of some of Leyden's outstanding places of beauty. Perhaps the most spectacular views are seen from East Hill looking toward Mt. Monadnock; and from Gates Hill in West Leyden looking toward Mt. Greylock and the Green Mountains of Vermont. A fine, cool northern vista may be seen from the Glabach pasture as one looks straight down into the gorge of Shattuck Brook; and a beautiful pastoral scene unfolds westward from the top of the Frizzell Hill paved road. Still another unforgettable view opens up from the summit of Daniel's Peak. Here one looks down on cozy little Beaver Meadow with its lush green fields, tiny white schoolhouse, and picketed burying ground where the pioneers of Leyden lie sleeping.

At the eastern gateway to Leyden, the Couch Brook Road, another beauty spot, winds westward from the New York to Montreal highway. Except in short stretches where trees have been cut, the entire length of the Couch Brook Road is a paradise for horseback riders. Another beautiful area, seldom seen even by the people of Leyden, is a high plateau meadow at the top of the old Paige Road. Here, the land rises gently toward the north from the dooryard of a curious square house under a huge tamarack tree. Comparable, but less spectacular than the Couch Brook Road is the old Eden Trail near the "lost waterfall." This trail follows an old Indian foot path which wound up the southeastern Leyden slopes. Along these ancient trails one

still may see an occasional giant chestnut, beech or maple, — remnants of the great, proud forest which guarded the Leyden hills in days gone by.

Perhaps best known of Leyden's beauty spots, was the Leyden Glen where deer and colorful birds once held sway. Judge Francis Thompson writes of the Glen: "Until the hand of man entered its royal gorge, it was celebrated far and wide for its wildness and picturesque beauty. In the summer it was the scene of pleasure parties and the upper part was known for its fine fishing. Now it is the property of a fire district . . . the wild scenery has been robbed of its charm to accomodate two lines of cast iron pipe."

Leyden's oldest roads still hold interest and beauty. Originally Indian trails, Scout Paths and Bridle Trails, many of these roads are mistaken for "wood roads" today. One such road lies along the "Clark Brook" on the Rhodes place in West Leyden; another passes through the Glabach pasture in East Leyden; a third runs along the west slope of Frizzell Hill. Nostalgic places all, alive with echoes of Indian and pioneer days. One can almost hear the rattle of the ox cart along these roads, if one listens long enough. Just as other relics of pioneer days are preserved, parts of these old roads, with their bordering stone walls, should be saved as monuments to our top-soil ancestors.

The Rocks of Leyden: Earlier in this book we spoke of Leyden's Silurian, 350-million-year-old rocks. We told that in the east part of town, the soft, slaty, sedimentary stone was named Leyden Argillite because of its prevalence in this area. A short distance to the north, in Guilford, Vermont, the Leyden Argillite becomes very hard and is quarried for fine roof slate; to the south, after passing under miles of younger rock strata, it appears unexpectedly in the beautiful Whately Glen. Westward, beyond the summit of Frizzell Hill, the character of Leyden's Argillite changes, and is known as Conway Schist. This interesting rock is described by President Emerson of Amherst College as "a rusty, dark gray, mica-schist with frequent garnets, rarely spangled and filled with quartz veins . . . abounding in black graphite and impure limestone beds." This rock is clearly visible on the right-hand side of the road above the Douglas Barton place.

At the top of Frizzell Hill, broad outcrops of white quartz veins reveal smooth, polished surfaces where giant glaciers, 20,000 years ago, ground and smoothed the hard, quartz rock.

Occasionally, one discovers an erratic granite boulder atop these mountain ledges — dropped there eons ago by the mile-high ice Goliaths. The largest of such Leyden rocks, known locally as "The Tipping Rock," lies half a mile east of Budington's Brook. It weighs well over twenty tons and can be moved by a push of a finger.

Edward Hitchcock, pioneer geologist in Hampshire County, discovered an unusual rock bed in West Leyden. This he described as a "light-colored, fine-grained gneiss." A 13-rod band of this rock crossed the old road west of the R. A. Gates or Capt. Joseph Babcock place. This was about a mile west of the Plum farm on Ethan Allen Highway, and is in the general area of the mysterious man-made Leyden "cave." Because gneiss rock was the favorite building stone of the strange troglodyte Culdee monks, the proximity of the gneiss bed in this particular area has strengthened the argument of Culdee enthusiasts as to the origin of the Leyden "cave." (See "Man-Made Rock Structures," page 163.)

Colorful rocks, never before noted, have been found in Leyden recently east of Frizzell Hill brook. This ledge stone ranges in color from red to orange and orange-yellow. A fine, silky mica-schist of a fleshy rose color also is found in the same area; and nearby, are flat pieces of white sandstone containing rectangular holes once filled with soluble minerals. A sample of the red-orange rock was sent to the Geology Department of the University of Massachusetts.

While digging a well on the eastern slope of Frizzell Hill in 1953, the author found a large crumbling rock resting on ledge nine feet below the surface of the earth. This disintegrating boulder, deposited by glaciers thousands of years ago, was shoveled into buckets. Other interesting rocks found in this well were bog iron, limonite, and chunks of Leyden Argillite sparkling with crystalized quartz spangles.

In southeastern Leyden, on what is known as "Dyer's Brook," specimens of Mesozoic sandstone have been found recently. This is a puddingstone variety of Sugarloaf Arkose, but the general character is similar to the pinkish-red sandstone of the Connecticut Valley. This rock is younger by 200 million years than the Silurian formations in the Leyden hills. It also represents one of the "far north" extensions of this particular stone.

The History of the Connecticut Valley refers to a Leyden

quarry which furnished stone for the bridges of the Connecticut River Railway about 1845. This quarry was abandoned because of transportation difficulties but the granite for the bridge abutments doubtless came from the area of huge monolithic dolmen-like rocks northeast of the Douglas Barton farm. Here, and northwest of the Spencer Howes home, there are evidences of definite granite quarry excavations.

Natural Rock Formations: Leyden has a number of very interesting natural rock formations. Outstanding is the great Meetinghouse Rock in the southwest Leyden wilds. Here early churchgoers met, before church buildings could be erected. Three caves also are found in Leyden. Legend has it that William Dorril often slept in the deep "Bear's Den" near the Leyden line on the south side of Shattuck Brook. It is also said that Dorril "retired," on occasion, to the cave opposite the present Caron place. Near Green River in the extreme southwest corner of the town there is a cave called "Rattlesnake's Den." A severe forest fire in the area is said to have driven the reptiles from this lair, but as far as we know, no one has crawled into the den of late to check the truth of this statement!

On the Strange-Croutworst place, near an abandoned road leading southward from Eden Trail, is an erratic granite block, 3 feet high and 2.5 feet thick, with chair-like gouges cut on two sides. This stone is known as "Sweetheart's Chair." Legend has it that lovers of old used this curious stone as a favorite rendezvous.

"Leyden Mines": Aside from the copper and gold mining described in Leyden's 1910 activities, placer gold mining was reported in Leyden's eastern ravines during the late 19th Century. One elderly man, panning for gold along the lower reaches of Couch Brook is said to have taken out a good day's pay over a considerable length of time.

The magnetite iron mine just over the eastern borders of Leyden is of special interest. This mine was opened during the early years of the American Revolution when the colonists were forced to rely upon their own resources for war materials. So rich is this vein that lands below the mine turn red for acres around when water filters through the iron-saturated rock above. Near the magnetite vein there are Devonian limestone beds which contain ancient fossils of corals, crinoid stems and brachiopods — sea creatures which inhabited our primeval seas millions of years ago.

So valuable are these ancient fossils for scientific study that students from leading New England colleges gather the aquatic remains for study in geology classes. Such an area would be an ideal spot for a "Church Woods" reservation.

Other unusual mineral deposits in Leyden are indicated by reports from West Leyden of "fairly encouraging results" by Geiger counter "prospectors." In East Leyden, aviators report that planes flying low near Daniel's Peak are thrown off course by the odd behavior of compasses which dance and spin erratically. Such compass action usually indicates the proximity of lodestone deposits.

Man-Made Rock Structures: First in this category is the so-called Indian hole, alias wine cellar, alias vegetable cellar, alias "Culdee cave." This stone structure, built in the side of a brook bank near the West Leyden hermitage of anchorite Dorril, is about 15 deep and five feet wide. A large hard wood stump is embedded in the face of the rock structure near the entrance. The old road passing near the cave, probably laid out on an Indian trail, was in use by the colonists from 1780 till the early 19th Century. It is on this road, a short distance above the cave that the Leyden gneiss bed is located.

As we have pointed out, the proximity of this gneiss bed to the mysterious man-made cave, adds to the fascinating theory that the cave may have been built by the Irish Culdee monks, a strange half pagan, half Christian sect said to have landed in America at least 600 years before Columbus spied our shores. It has been suggested that such a cave might have been converted into a storage cellar by the colonists who found it already built when they arrived. Such a theory is, of course, pure supposition, but worthy of consideration because of the numerous "Culdee" structures in the nearby hill towns of Wendell, Shutesbury, Leverett and New Salem. A second unexplained Leyden rock structure of possible Culdee origin is in East Leyden. This is a circular structure on the Croutworst farm. It is built on ledge and no one can explain its purpose.

The terrain of the Leyden area is similar to Northern Ireland from whence the Culdees came. This similarity may have attracted the monks to this area, Culdee enthusiasts point out.

The "1471" dated granite boulder on the old Shattuck place is another Leyden rock curiosity. It was suggested earlier that the date probably was carved by the scribe, John Lee, a 1741 settler who cut the date backwards in jest. When boric acid

powder was rubbed into the face of this stone, drawings of a crude house and a rough cross appeared. It has been suggested that these latter inscriptions may have been added after the 1471 date — during the Dorrilite regime when wooden-shoemaker Shattuck lived on the spot.

Old Stone Foundations: Roaming through the warm, autumn Leyden woods when the leaves are gone and the last hardy flowers seek shelter from frost near a strong-backed wall or stone foundation, one can easily find the places where pioneer settlers laid up their sturdy walls — some with Leyden Argillite, some with thin, dark blue bricks made from the clay of Beaver Meadow Brook or Frizzell Hill Swamp. Many of these foundations are worthy of study for their fine craftsmanship. To cover up this "artistry" with refuse seems a kind of heedless sacrilege. Such practice, sad to say, is common in many New England hill towns.

In the northwest corner of Leyden, amid a tangle of Virgin's-bower and Blue Gentians, close to the merry Thorn Brook, is the fine stonework of the Thorn mills, now as sound as though laid yesterday. Southward, down the River Road, in a thicket where the Fringed Gentians bloom in lonely clearings, one finds all that is left of the once proud Crandall farm — 18th Century center of activity in the busy pioneer community. Here, in the midst of the cellar is an arched vault, used, some say, for wine storage or for preserving hams and bacon. The vault is ten feet deep with a single huge capstone.

Below the Leyden-Vermont line, just off Ethan Allen Highway, rock foundations mark the quarters of negro slaves, banned from residence in Vermont even before the Civil War.

One might wander, mile after mile, following Leyden's stone walls laid up so strongly, a little sad at heart perhaps that little is left of the pioneers' work but these rough monuments of laid glacial stone; yet glad we have such tokens of the strength and vitality of these stalwart men.

On a warm October day, we pause, perhaps near the old cellar hole and see the crumbling fireplace where H. K. Brown made his first sketch; or we travel northward to the Walsworth site nearby and rest on the houseless doorstep. There is a certain mysterious beauty which clings to such pioneer sites on quiet autumn days when "the leaves lie brown upon the lawn."

Continuing our nostalgic stroll, we come perhaps to the Beaver Meadow graveyard, and after reading the names of early

Leyden men inscribed on slaty Argillite, we come to that part of the yard, so common in New England cemeteries, where dozens of rough, nameless boulders mark the resting-places of hardy pioneers—graves of "unknown soldiers," whom we should respect, with the others, and not forget.

The Ferns of Leyden: As the fern was one of the earliest forms of life, we note next on our "stroll" the twenty-odd varieties growing in the Leyden hills. This is by no means a complete record, but does represent 85% of Leyden's fern life. Identification, with identification of area wild flowers, shrubs and trees, is the result of 25 years' study which began under the tutelage of the late naturalist, Viola F. Richards of Deerfield and Grace G. Stanford of Rowe.

Four large Osmundas — Interrupted, Royal, Cinnamon and Ostrich — lead the list of Leyden ferns. Next come the Hay-scented and New York ferns, found along roadways; then Eagle Fern, in dry pastures; Rattlesnake Fern, along moist, shady lanes; Lady Fern, meadow borders; Sensitive Fern, in moist meadows; Beech Fern, moist open woodlands; Grape Fern, "sour" meadows; Clinton's, Christmas, Spinulose and Evergreen Wood Ferns, in rocky forests; Polypody, on mountain rocks; Silvery Spleenwort, woodland borders; Maidenhair, rich, moist woods; Bulbet Bladder and Common Bladder Ferns, near rocky brooks and waterfalls; Marsh Fern, in wet meadows; Oak Fern, shady, moist woods; Lance-leaved Grape Fern, cold rich woods near water.

The Lance-leaved Grape Fern and Oak Fern are perhaps the most unusual thus far found in Leyden. Fern hunters also should be on the look-out for Maidenhair Spleenwort near rocky woodland brooks, Ebony Spleenwort on rocky ledges and the Walking Fern, near moist, sunny ledges. The Crested Shield Fern, found in swampy areas in Bernardston, also should grow in Leyden.

The Mosses and Grasses of Leyden: Sphagnum is perhaps the most useful and interesting moss growing in Leyden. It grows in thick layers on Frizzell Hill swamp and is found in other swampy areas of Leyden. This moss is used by florists when packing plants; it is also used by surgeons in dressing wounds. Other Leyden mosses include: "Red Soldier Moss," Deer Moss and the bright green liverworts which grow in sparkling clear pools in the brook northwest of "Blueberry Hill."

Grasses in the Spring and Summer fields of Leyden include

Sweet Vernal, the earliest grass to bloom; Kentucky Blue Grass; Reed Canary Grass; Slender Sedge; Meadow Bulrush; Orchard Grass; Blue Joint Grass; White-grained Mountain Rice; Yard Rush; Timothy Grass; Panic Grass; Pond Sedge; Meadow Fox-tail; Yellow Foxtail; *Carex Mirabilis* Sedge; Bog Rush; Cotton Grass; Meadow Muhlenbergia; Crab Grass; Fox Sedge. Many other grasses, especially sedges, may be found in Leyden by the alert observer.

The Wild Flowers of Leyden: Though no complete survey of Leyden's wild flowers has been made, Masha Arms reports over 55 species found on the old Newcomb homestead. Among the more unusual wild flowers growing in Leyden are: Water Avens, Dutchman's Breeches, Wild Indigo, Mountain Fringe, Wild Ginger, Yellow Orchid, Fringed Gentian, Showy Orchis, Wild Blue Lupine, Pink Azalea, Blue Cohosh, Gold Thread; pink, orchid white and three shades of Blue Hepatica.

Elizabeth (Howes) Siano, who early in life made a special study of Leyden's wild flowers, particularly the violets, contributes the following unusual list: Candian Violet, Long-spurred Violet, Lance-leaved Violet, Selkirk's Great-spurred Violet, Marsh Blue Violet, Woolly and Ovate-leaved Violet, Large-leaved White Violet, Smooth Yellow Violet, Small Yellow Violet.

Mayflowers of great size and wonderful fragrance were found in abundance by George Brown of Leyden on the southern slopes of Blueberry Hill until 1950, when over cultivation interfered with their growth.

The Shrubs and Bushes of Leyden: Shad, the first flowering bush of the Spring is a familiar sight on Leyden's hillsides, even before the leaves open on the trees. It is not commonly known that this bush derived its name from the fact that it always blossomed at the time the shad fish swarmed up the Connecticut River — in such numbers, goes the Yankee tale, "that a man could cross the river on their backs."

Other well-known Leyden shrubs are: Viburnum, Elderberry, High Bush Blueberry, Juniper and Black Alder. The latter is found in swampy, open spots loaded with bright, red berries about Christmas time. Witch Hazel, which blooms in the Fall, also grows in Leyden. Chokecherry, another common Leyden bush, is a favorite with birds and bears. It is used as a Jacob's Ladder by the decorative Bittersweet Vine. Most unusual of Leyden's shrubs is a reddish-pink laurel which grows in profusion on the south and southeast slopes of Frizzell Hill.

There are many wild roses in Leyden. The fine old pastures produce sweet-scented Eglantine and the extremely beautiful and fragrant Sweetbriar Rose. Several Leyden residents recently have set out hedges of Chinese Multi-flora Rose. This bush not only serves as a formidable fence, but in June is heavy with delicate pink and white blossoms. In the Fall and Winter, its red berries provide food for the wild birds. The berries also make cheerful holiday decorations.

Perhaps the most unique bush in Leyden is the huge Japanese Lilac on the north side of the old Newcomb homestead. The circumference of the main branch of this bush is over 29 inches. It is probably the largest lilac in the Northeast.

The Wild Birds of Leyden: Shortly after the advent of the H-bomb, when people did not know when they went to bed if anything would be left of them or the landscape should they wake up, there was an upsurge of interest in nature. It was a kind of subconscious withdrawal from a spiritually sterile science toward wholeness and purity. Bird columns appeared in the daily press; bird clubs sprang up all over the country and scores of new nature books flooded the market. Many songs, with bird themes, glided down the nation's radio waves.

It was in 1951 that we conducted the first systematic survey of the bird life in Leyden. Many interesting facts were discovered pertaining to the resident, nesting and migrating birds of the area.

Since birds, like trees and wild flowers, were here on earth long before man came on the scene, these early forms of life constitute a definite place in Leyden's history (or in any town's history) and are given in detail below.

We list first the birds which live in Leyden's woods and fields the year around. These birds are probably familiar to everyone:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Black-capped Chickadee | 9. Pileated Woodpecker |
| 2. Blue Jay | 10. Ruffed Grouse |
| 3. Starling | 11. Ring-necked Pheasant |
| 4. English Sparrow | 12. White-breasted Nuthatch |
| 5. Crow | 13. Purple or Rosy Finch |
| 6. Rock or Barn Dove | 14. Cedar Waxwing |
| 7. Downy Woodpecker | 15. Barred Owl |
| 8. Hairy Woodpecker | 16. Great Horned Owl |

From an actual list of Spring birds migrating from the South and nesting in the Leyden area, the following Leyden birds (on record in the American Museum of Natural History)

are given in the general order in which they appear singing in Leyden's hills:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| March | | 37. Nashville Warbler |
| 1. Junco | | 38. Louisiana Water-Thrush |
| 2. Red-wing Blackbird | | 39. Barn Swallow |
| 3. Robin | | 40. Catbird |
| 4. Bluebird | | May |
| 5. Song Sparrow | | 41. Northern Water-Thrush |
| 6. Red-shouldered Hawk | | 42. Oven-bird |
| 7. Grackle | | 43. Blackburnian Warbler |
| 8. Meadowlark | | 44. Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| 9. Phoebe | | 45. Baltimore Oriole |
| 10. Killdeer | | 46. Bobolink |
| 11. Mourning Dove | | 47. Veery |
| 12. Wilson's Snipe | | 48. Kingbird |
| April | | 49. Chimney Swift |
| 13. Cowbird | | 50. Black-throated Blue W'bler |
| 14. Marsh Hawk | | 51. Crested Flycatcher |
| 15. Flicker | | 52. Great Blue Heron |
| 16. Kingfisher | | 53. Wood Thrush |
| 17. Vesper Sparrow | | 54. Canada Warbler |
| 18. Savannah Sparrow | | 55. Scarlet Tanager |
| 19. Chipping Sparrow | | 56. Grasshopper Sparrow |
| 20. Field Sparrow | | 57. Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| 21. Swamp Sparrow | | 58. Yellow-throat |
| 22. Broad-winged Hawk | | 59. Red-eyed Vireo |
| 23. Tree Swallow | | 60. House Wren |
| 24. Towhee (Chebec) | | 61. Screech Owl |
| 25. Goldfinch | | 62. Cliff Swallow |
| 26. Yellow-bellied Woodpecker | | 63. Warbling Vireo |
| 27. Myrtle Warbler | | 64. Redstart |
| 28. Pine Warbler | | 65. Yellow Warbler |
| 29. Nighthawk | | 66. Least Flycatcher |
| 30. Sparrow Hawk | | 67. Alder Flycatcher |
| 31. Brown Thrasher | | 68. Ruby-throated Hummingbird |
| 32. White-throated Sparrow | | 69. Whip-poor-will |
| 33. Hermit Thrush | | 70. Black-billed Cuckoo |
| 34. Blue-headed Vireo | | 71. Yellow-billed Cuckoo |
| 35. Black and White Warbler | | 72. Wood Pewee |
| 36. Black-throated Green Warbler | | 73. Indigo Bunting |

The Spring migrants, those birds which pass through Leyden on the way north from Florida, Central and South America, include the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Canada Geese | 11. Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| 2. Snow Geese | 12. Parula Warbler |
| 3. Pigeon Hawk | 13. Magnolia Warbler |
| 4. Brown Creeper | 14. Olive-backed Thrush |
| 5. Rusty Blackbird | 15. Winter Wren |
| 6. American Pipit | 16. Olive-sided Flycatcher |
| 7. Pine Siskin | 17. White-crowned Sparrow |
| 8. Fox Sparrow | 18. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher |
| 9. Yellow Palm Warbler | 19. Black-poll Warbler |
| 10. Sharp-shinned Hawk | 20. Bay-breasted Warbler |

Certain birds which pass through Leyden in the Fall after nesting in the northlands include species not seen at any other

time of year. These birds, particularly the Warblers, seek shelter in corn fields bordering thickets or swampy spots. The insects which hover near the corn, and the juicy berries in the thickets, attract such birds. It is not commonly known that warblers sometimes eat berries to "balance" their insect diet.

The Leyden Fall migrants are:

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|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Cape May Warbler | 5. Philadelphia Vireo |
| 2. Wilson's Warbler | 6. Lincoln's Sparrow |
| 3. Tennessee Warbler | 7. Migrant Shrike |
| 4. Mourning Warbler | 8. Magnolia Warbler |

Arctic birds which breed in the Far North but sometimes fly as far south as Leyden in Winter months are interesting because of their "Esquimo" nature. Such birds, especially the northern sparrows, buntings and finches feed on the seed of the evening primrose if left to grow about garden borders in Summer.

The Winter migrants follow:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Red-breasted Nuthatch | 7. Northern Horned Lark |
| 2. Golden-crowned Kinglet | 8. Pine Grosbeak |
| 3. Tree Sparrow | 9. Northern Shrike |
| 4. Evening Grosbeak | 10. Rough-legged Hawk |
| 5. Snow Bunting | 11. Lapland Longspur |
| 6. Redpoll | 12. Snowy Owl |

Looking back on records of unusual migrant birds seen in Leyden, perhaps the singing Winter Wren was most memorable. As a rule, this bird nests in the dark evergreen glens of the White and Green Mountains, but early one Spring morning in 1952, one of these birds was heard singing on Eden Trail. Its song, ranked as one of the most beautiful in nature, once heard, is never forgotten. It is long-sustained, extremely melodious and high-pitched — with a kind of piccolo quality. It is extremely loud considering the size of the tiny 4-inch bird.

On Leyden's Florida Mountain "annex" an unusual chorus of bird songs was heard in 1953 when an Olive-backed Thrush, a Wood Thrush, a Veery and a Hermit Thrush were singing near the Florida church.

Two unique Leyden bird-nesting records should be mentioned here. A Pine Siskin, after feeding all Winter on millet, in the Spring began picking up dust fluff near its feeding board, and flying off to nearby pine woods. This bird, with its mate, completed a nest, but like the Winter Wren, disappeared northward when hot weather set in. In pre-nesting operations, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch was seen flirting with its mate, feeding and pampering her near Frizzell Hill. But he, too, vanished late in

May, presumably to habitual breeding grounds farther north.

Stray birds, driven off course by storm, or lured astray by wanderlust, sometimes appear in Leyden. One fine June day in 1952 a southern Turkey Vulture cruised over Leyden's hills. A young Red-headed Woodpecker, never before seen in Leyden, was seen investigating insect possibilities on fence posts in September, 1954. That same year, a sparrow, with solid white crown, appeared out of nowhere, then vanished as suddenly. No such bird is listed in any ornithology. Another curious Leyden stray was a pigeon-like bird with a cobalt blue crown and curious striped head markings. No one could identify this bird — even the Audubon Society gave up!

At Christmas-time in 1952, Leyden contributed the first bird list for the "Christmas Count" catalogue. This report appeared in the official register of the National Audubon Society. Unfortunately, the Snowy Owl, seen by Louis Black of Leyden some years before, did not appear for the 1952 year-end bird census.

Often, when the snow is deep and all terrestrial life is still, we hear, high in the blue, the calls of the winter birds, but do not know their names. To become better acquainted with these birds from the Far North — to know their calls — is to become closer to their freedom and beauty. The Pine Grosbeak, for instance, a robin-sized, rosy-breasted northerner, cries "tee-tee-two" as he dips in undulating flight high in the cold, blue air. The Redpoll has a distinctive flight note much like the summer Goldfinch; the Snow Bunting has its flight note; so does the lark, and all the rest of the birds of the Winter sky.

Before closing this bird section we should like to add a plea to householders not to cut or burn brush during the bird-nesting season which runs from mid-May to July. Also to be discouraged, is insecticide spraying over wide areas in Summer. According to the Rural New Yorker and Journal of Applied Nutrition such spraying kills insects which help pollinate the farmer's crops, and destroys much natural bird food. When nesting parent birds go elsewhere for provender, young birds are left to starve. The Vesper Sparrow, once active in Leyden's pastures, disappeared after the first aerial spraying.

We have a rare heritage in our wild birds. They not only are of value because of their æsthetic qualities but they also are of great service to the farmer in ridding crops of harmful insects. To attract birds to our dooryards and fields, experts

suggest we plant elder, lespedesa, multiflora and wild primrose to give them shelter and food. Bird baths set in the kitchen garden during hot weather will attract many feathered friends. A deep plate, with a rough, flat stone inserted, if filled with water, often serves the purpose.

In Winter, Chickadees are easy to attract with sunflower seeds. They will feed from one's hand, sit on the shoulder — sometimes even take seeds from one's lips!

But our birds are more than seed eaters; more than pest destroyers; more than pets. If one listens to a nearby Hermit Thrush or a singing Winter Wren — one knows, then, what the other value is.

The Wild Animals and Reptiles of Leyden: Perhaps the most colorful of Leyden's animals is the Beaver which makes its home in the western part of the town. Here, on a never-failing brook, he has constructed an intricate dam which attracts nature lovers from miles around. Though Beaver Meadow was once the rendezvous of many of these curious animals, and parts of their dams still are visible there, so rare is the beaver today his works are well protected in Leyden. Hence, the beaver dam in West Leyden, though it causes flooding of the main highway nearby, remains undisturbed.

Other colorful animals which appear occasionally in Leyden include the Brown Bear whose presence is evidenced sometimes by small heaps of apples piled up under fall fruit trees. The Wild Cat, whose ear-splitting screams are often heard in the dead of night, is not uncommon in Leyden. The Red Fox, too, is a frequent night-prowler.

Deer, of course, are quite plentiful. Sometimes one may be so fortunate as to see a buck and doe with young feeding peacefully in green pasture or nearby field.

Coons are quite plentiful in Leyden as are grey and red squirrels, chipmunks and weasels. And of course Leyden has its share of porcupines, woodchucks and pole cats. Odd mice, including the Alpine Mouse, Deer Mouse and a mouse with a tail over a foot long, also live in Leyden.

It is said that along the steep, sunny ledges near Green River there was once a large colony of "rattlers." The story goes that descendants of renegade William Dorril sought out and exterminated these rattlers when the reptiles slithered up nearby trees during a forest fire. The hideout of these "Eden" invaders was known as "Rattlesnake's Den."

Today, Leyden's only large reptiles are found near the swamp on Frizzell Hill where in April they feed on the swamp's abundant frog life. They then lie for days in the warm sun digesting their Spring feast. One such black dozer was accidentally stepped upon by the author who was scanning nearby woods for migrant warblers. Happily, the reptile was so drowsy and the intruder so agile neither suffered from the incident. This snake was, without exaggeration, six feet long and four inches thick. Aside from such black monsters, Leyden produces the standard green, brown and yellow-striped water snakes. There are no known noxious reptiles in Leyden today.

The Wild Indians of Leyden: Though the original landholders in Leyden's hills were Indians, there is little evidence to prove that the aborigines tarried here except during Fall hunting excursions, or when on the warpath. Many of Leyden's early roads were laid out on these "war paths" with one spur of the Mohawk Trail passing through the town toward the Connecticut River. This path was doubtless the same which the 1704 captives from Deerfield trod through southeastern Leyden to the Couch Brook gorge.

The route of the Alexander Road also is said to have been laid out on an old Indian trail. Near this road, are two mysterious burying places. Both have Indian background stories. The first burial plot is a walled enclosure with a single unmarked stone in the center. It is north of the present Richard Campbell place on lands owned earlier by Edward Denison.

History records that this same Edward Denison married in 1790, "Rhuhamā" an Indian maiden of high birth. It is very likely, therefore, that "Rhuhamā" was buried within the stone enclosure because of her Indian status.

The second stone marker near the Alexander Road is in the woods southeast of the old Alexander place. It was near this spot that the last Leyden Indian was killed by white men. The lonely stone may well mark the grave of the unfortunate redskin.

Today, many leading New England families can trace back proudly to Indian ancestry. Besides the Denison marriage to "Rhuhamā," we know of a number of similar marriages in the Leyden area. These involve the Plum, Pratt, Franklin and Carpenter families.

Indian artifacts are not common in Leyden. Unlike the rich Indian hunting grounds of Deerfield where pottery sherds were

found near "Fort Hill" as recently as 1956, the hills of Leyden rarely give up more than a stray arrowhead or flint chip. Unusual was the recent finding of a tomahawk by Betty Lee Potter near Green River. Interesting colonial artifacts which may have been taken from scalped white men during the Indian wars and lost by Indians near their camp fires, include an iron smoking pipe twelve inches long with a small cast-iron bowl found on the Asher Corse place by Hart Larabee when following his father's plow. A second such artifact is an 18th Century link-button with hand-drawn design found near an Indian camp-fire site on the Newcomb homestead. This button was so unusual neither the Essex nor the Smithsonian Institute could identify it.

After the French and Indian wars, the Indians became friendly with the white settlers — if they were treated kindly; but if they were hurt or tricked, they reciprocated. As time went on, however, the Red Man sank farther and farther from sight. In the early 1930's, the last Leyden Indian who lived in a lone cabin on a western hill, passed forever from the scene.

The Trees of Leyden: As early as 1823, Leyden took part in a conservation program. On Tuesday, April 1 of that year, Abel Perry, son of Leyden pioneer John Perry, ran the following advertisement in the Greenfield Franklin Gazette: "Farm for Sale . . . set over with Chestnut, Beech and Maple." Here was a man far ahead of his time. Though conservation practices today are not so wide-spread in Leyden as one might hope, the following men are known to have set out trees either as "Tree Farms" or for conservation purposes: Charles Bolton, Red Pines; Charles Erhardt, mixed pines; Robert Harris, mixed evergreens; Louis Muka, locust and mixed evergreens; M. and W. Arms, red and white pine; State of Massachusetts, spruce and white pine.

There are very few virgin trees remaining in Leyden. On the Alexander Road is a huge "candelabra" Elm, some 20 feet in circumference and at least 200 years old. In the woods northwest of Frizzell Hill is a great weather-worn Chestnut 30 feet in circumference. (Though this tree has long been dead, Mr. Muka reports that in 1957 he had a live Chestnut on his place with 50 burrs.) A third large tree, is a huge White Oak near the granite quarry below Frizzell Hill; another is the big Indian Tamarack at the head of Page Road on the Shivitz farm. A large Brittle Willow (the type from which Pilgrims made baskets) hung gracefully over East Hill Road until recently when the main branches were cut. Experts estimate the age of the trunk as over

150 years. This willow is phenomenal in that it grows on unusually high ground for the species, yet it is the first tree in the neighborhood to leaf out in the Spring and the last to shed its leaves in the Fall. Such beauty, it seems to us, transcends any possible traffic annoyance.

The Conifers or Evergreen Trees of Leyden:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Red Spruce | 5. Canadian Hemlock |
| 2. Black Spruce | 6. White Pine |
| 3. Fir Balsam | 7. Red Pine (introduced) |
| 4. Red Cedar | 8. Tamarack (semi-evergreen) |

The Deciduous Trees of Leyden:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Rock or Sugar Maple | 16. Weeping Willow |
| 2. Red Maple | 17. Basswood (Linden) |
| 3. Mountain Maple | 18. Butternut |
| 4. Striped Maple | 19. Bird Cherry |
| 5. White Oak | 20. Black Cherry |
| 6. Chestnut Oak | 21. Aspen (Poplar) |
| 7. Chestnut | 22. Large-Toothed Aspen |
| 8. Beech | 23. Ironwood (Blue Beech) |
| 9. White Birch | 24. Mountain Ash |
| 10. Yellow Birch | 25. White Ash |
| 11. Black Birch | 26. Locust |
| 12. Grey Birch | 27. Tupelo (Dyer) |
| 13. Wild Apple | 28. Common Sumac |
| 14. Staghorn Sumac | 29. American Elm |
| 15. Brittle Willow | 30. Sassafras (Dobias) |

In the Spring of 1957, the Leyden "Church Woods" plan was introduced throughout New England by the Associated Press. This was a move to encourage the preservation of small woodland areas not only in Leyden but throughout the country. It operated on a purely voluntary basis without affiliation with any state or federal conservation organization. It recommended that woodland owners set aside small areas to serve as permanent sanctuaries for all wildlife.

The name, "Church Woods" stems directly from Leyden's earliest history. As we have noted, early churchgoers of Leyden, having no place in which to worship, went into the tall, virgin forests to pay tribute to God. It was with this in mind that the name, "Church Woods" was adopted for the woodland sanctuaries. Leyden was a fitting place to initiate such an idea, since the name Leyden itself suggests sanctuary or refuge.

The Associated Press article which introduced the Church Woods plan listed appropriate sites for the sanctuaries as "rocky, forested mountain tops, wooded swamps, spruce-growing islands, areas along mountain brooks, historic mine sites,

sections of pioneer woodland roads and the "mission" sites of the long-lost Culdee monks."

Response to the Leyden "Church Woods" plan was encouraging from the start. Cooperative remarks came from Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Vermont. Nature Magazine promised "commendation and support of the plan" and ran an article on the subject in the October 1957 issue. Reader's Digest editors responded interestedly to the "Church Woods" idea and sent best wishes for its success. A Connecticut professor took the "Church Woods" idea back to Ohio's Antioch College. The Christian Science Monitor ran the "Church Woods" story in a 250,000 edition. The Bulletin of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature ran an item on "Church Woods" in the December 1957 Brussels issue.

Not long ago, Walter S. Baker died in a valiant attempt to save his Leyden "Church Woods" from a nearby forest fire. Since that time, several of Leyden's leading citizens have volunteered to set off land for "Church Woods." Artists of the town already are working on appropriate posters to mark off these sites.

In ancient mythology, the tree symbolized man's wholeness or spiritual perfection, and anyone who brought down a beautiful tree, wantonly, reduced his spiritual stature. New England's great naturalist, Henry David Thoreau, carries out the idea of the spiritual significance of trees when he writes: "A beautiful tree is as immortal as I and perhaps will go to as high a Heaven — there to tower above me still!" California's giant, John Muir, were he asked to comment on the "Church Woods" plan, would doubtless echo his alpine words: "Great is the manly, treely sacrifice!"

Leyden Arts and Crafts of Yesterday and Today: The men of old, it seems, were close to the wholeness of nature and reflected this wholeness in their everyday works. With little time for extracurricular artistry, the hardy Leyden pioneers put artistic expression into the building of a stone wall; the erection of a Cape Cod home; the making of a fireplace chinked with blue clay; the inscription of a gravestone.

Today, however, the picture has changed, and with more leisure time at their disposal, the people of Leyden, in the wake of the post-war "renaissance," are producing excellent artistic work, some of which has won distinction in the art galleries of New York and Boston. The best work reflects a "Church Woods"

sensitivity to the wholeness and purity of nature — a goal which all objective artists might well seek.

In mid-summer, 1957, an exhibition by four Leyden artists was staged on the lawn of the Arthur Howes home in a beautiful natural setting. The following year this show was extended to include the arts and crafts of additional Leyden residents. In 1959, as part of the sesquicentennial celebration, an "all-inclusive" Leyden show featured artistic work from over 85% of the townspeople. The unique exhibit was held in the Town Hall and was the largest of its kind ever staged in the area.

Artists and Craftsmen in Leyden Today

Arms, Masha, (see p. 208.)

Britton, James A., architect. Specializes in traditional and modern design. Was landscape architect with the city planners of Brookline, Massachusetts.

Cook, Clara P., voice instructor and choir leader. Led the Santa Maria Choir of Worcester, 1957. Known as a "Fred Waring prodigy."

Fritz, Ursula H., studied at the Montpelier Seminary of Art and under special instructors from New York and Massachusetts. Besides naturalistic nature studies, Mrs. Fritz has created some unusual "heads."

Glabach, Henry A., one of the few remaining blacksmiths and ironworkers of the area. Mr. Glabach makes old-fashioned "L" and "H" hinges; he also fashions andiron sets from horseshoes.

Hine, Darwin D., originator of unique polished slab-tables.

Hine, Helene, landscape artist of realistic and appealing New England nature scenes. Mrs. Hine studied under Irene Breen of New York and at the Montpelier Seminary in Vermont.

Howes, Felixina, artist and horticulturist. Studied under Irene Breen of New York City and has painted some interesting Leyden landscapes. Mrs. Howes is an expert propagator of tuberous begonias. In 1957, she staged the first Leyden arts and crafts show at her home.

Rigoll, Charles F., oil and water color artist of the primitive school. Painted scenes in the Philippines during World War II.

Sloane, Hugh S., does interesting restorations of colonial interiors and deals in "Architectural Antiques."

Sloane, Mary H., artist and poet. After working in various art mediums, Mrs. Sloane recently adopted the "non-objective"

form of painting and is an area pioneer in this work. A number of her canvasses have won prizes in Springfield, New York and Boston. Mrs. Sloane is the author of the book of verse, "Strong Cables Rising."

* * * * *

A host of minor arts and crafts are found in Leyden today. Most popular is fancy knitting and crocheting; next comes fine embroidery, dressmaking, rug hooking, rug braiding, and the making of "crazy" or patchwork quilts. Home baking and the expert curing of hams also should be included in the Leyden crafts; nor should the extremely intelligent craft of organic farming be excluded. All crafts will be credited to the proper individuals in the list of Leyden citizens which will be found in the genealogical section.

CHAPTER XII

Genealogical Section

Leyden Residents Today: The people of Leyden today represent a fair cross-section of the "American Melting Pot" in a typical New England hill town. In 1959, there were in Leyden some twelve nationalities including: English, Scotch, Welsh, Irish, German, Norwegian, Swedish, Austrian, Polish, Czechoslovakian, Russian and French. A number of these are descendants of early immigrant settlers; others are descendants of later waves of immigration; some are from very recent immigrations. All came to America via the same Atlantic Ocean, at different periods of our history. Today's Leyden residents are:

Ainsworth, Raymond C., to Leyden 1957. Compositor for the Greenfield Recorder-Gazette. Veteran, World War II. Married Katherine Goldthwaite of Shelburne. Ch: Joan; Kenneth; Kathleen. As an avocation, Mrs. Ainsworth knits scarves and sweaters with applique designs.

Arms, Masha and William T., (See pp. 208-209.)

Bailey, Malcolm V., to Leyden 1942. Served with the Marines during World War II. Married Louise Snow of Leyden, 1939. Mrs. Bailey works on surgical supplies in Colrain. Mr. Bailey acted as a member of the Leyden Sesquicentennial Committee.

Baker, David J., to Leyden 1946. Served with the Air Force during World War II. As a native of Guilford, Vt., was appointed Page Boy in the Vermont State Legislature when 12 years of age. Mr. Baker has served three terms as Leyden selectman; he also was a member of the School Committee. His work is in communications. In 1946, he married Eva Weiss, daughter of Mrs. John Weiss of Brattleboro. Mrs. Baker is active in the Leyden P.T.A. and Leyden Woman's Club. Children: Andrew David; Bruce Jason; Christopher John; Faye Diann.

Barker, William, to Leyden 1950. Farmer and stock breeder. Member of Leyden School Committee, 6 years. Married Katherine Miller, a descendant of an old Leyden family. Mrs. Barker is a 4-H Club leader and P. T. A. Committee Chairman. She specializes in creating home furnishings. Children: Patricia Ann; Kathlyn Jean.

Barton, Gilbert D., to Leyden 1907. Farmer. One-time collector of ginseng and wild honey. Enjoys trout fishing in Leyden

brooks. Married Mildred Denison, daughter of West Leyden's Carroll Denison. From 1938-1946, Mrs. Barton drove the Leyden school bus. Children: Douglas; Dorothy (Quinn); Donald; Kenneth; Ruth.

Barton, Douglas, native of Leyden. Owner of "Barton's Garage." School Committee member, 3 terms. Deals in replicas of old-fashioned baskets and buckets. Married Marguerite Canedy, past president of Leyden P. T. A. Children: Norman; Gordon; Irene (Baker); June (Damon); Wendell; Elwin; Ronald; Creig.

Barton, Gordon A., native of Leyden. Automotive mechanic. Married Shirley Arabia of Buckland. Children: Bonny; Keith; Gary Douglas.

Beaudoin, Leon J., to Leyden 1933. Machinist. Married Evelyn Snow of Leyden. Children: Arthur; Hildege. Mrs. Beaudoin hooks rugs as an avocation. Mr. Beaudoin is on the Leyden "Old Home Day" committee.

Black, Louis J., born 1886 near East Leyden line. Farmer. Expert with horses. At age 14 bought first stallion. Following 1959 March blizzard, delivered mail with horse and "pung" when nothing else could get through.

Bolton, Charles, a native of Leyden (d. 1954). Early Leyden R. F. D. carrier. Expert in the art of curing hams. Married Gertrude Atwood of Northfield. Mrs. Bolton taught in Beaver Meadow from 1916-1918. She sings, and plays piano at public functions.

Britton, James A., to Leyden 1952. Architect. Raises Brown Swiss cattle. Married Ruth E. Higgins of Providence, R. I. They have five children. As an avocation, Mrs. Britton makes colorful braided rugs.

Brooks, Ernest D., born Leyden 1873. Carpenter and dairy farmer. Married Jennie Hastings of Bernardston. Their son, Earl Raymond, m. Blanche M. Woodard and carried on the farm. Children: Earl Albert, tree surgeon; Ernest Fredrick; Clayton Raymond; Richard Roy. All enjoy angling. Earl Albert plays accordion at parties and dances.

Brooks, Richard R., native of Leyden. Miller and carpenter. Built new house on foundations of old Leyden homestead. Married Bernice Erving of Bernardston. Children: Elaine; David; John. Mrs. Brooks is the daughter of George Erving, formerly of Leyden's Erving Hill.

Brown, Gerald R., to Leyden 1953. Navy veteran of World War II. Miller. Married Elsie Herzig of Colrain. Ch: Donald; Shir-

ley; Susan; Gloria. Mr. Brown lives near site of the Lynde Box Shop.

Caron, William H. Lives on old Coolidge place near Beaver Meadow.

Campbell, Harold V., native of Leyden, Town Clerk and Treasurer since 1933. Tax Collector 12 years. A leading dairy farmer of the town. An early promoter of the Leyden History and loyal supporter of the project. Member of the Leyden History Advisory Committee. (See also under Campbell and Severance in the genealogical section of this book.)

Cobb, Harry Z., to Leyden 1918. Holstein stock farmer. On Committee for Leyden Central School. Married Charlotte Spaulding of White River Junction, Vt. Lives on site of the old Budington Tavern which burned in 1894.

Cobb, Gordon, to Leyden 1933. Lives on farm of uncle, Harry Z. Cobb. Married, 1937, Claire Fregeau. Mrs. Cobb is said to bake excellent cakes. Ch: Deborah and Denise.

Cook, Edric W., a native of Leyden. Selectman and Moderator for many years. Veteran of World War I. Married Clara Royce Parmeter of Amherst. Mrs. Cook teaches voice; and raises unusual flowers. (See Arts & Crafts Section.) Children: Norman John; Robert Simon.

Croutworst, William P., to Leyden 1912. Of Huguenot descent. Dairy farmer. Mr. Croutworst's father, Conrad, came to Leyden in 1890. In 1915, a meeting to plan the new Eden Trail was held at his house. William Croutworst, as a violinist, often played with Chester W. Severance. In 1933, Mr. Croutworst married Josephine Warren of Ashfield. Mrs. Croutworst taught school in Leyden for 5 years. She is an expert dressmaker. Ch: Frederick, (P. F. C., U. S. Army, Germany, 1956-58; Air Corps, 1959); Margaret, a graduate of Cambridge Business School; Robert, dairy farmer; Marilyn, student at Pioneer Valley Regional School.

Dean, Percy F., to Leyden 1918 and 1958. Precision machinist. Repairs and refinishes antiques. Collects U. S. stamps and paper-weights.

Dobias, Austin, Sr., to Leyden 1923. Dairy farmer. Road superintendent many years. Tree warden. Drove children to school 23 years without accident. Repairs antique furniture. In 1923, married Alice Coates of Leyden and Gill. Mrs. Dobias is President of the Ladies' Society. She makes stuffed toys, dolls and monkeys for church benefits. Ch: Paulina (Mrs. Ernest Streeter of Bernardston); Austin, Jr.; Arthur John; Don Allen; and Alice

Coates Dobias. Miss Dobias makes fine embroidery.

Dobias, Austin, Jr., born in Leyden. Road repair work. Married Elizabeth Chapin of Leyden. Lives in the remodeled Beaver Meadow schoolhouse. Children: Sandra Jean and Linda Anne.

Dobias, Arthur J., Born in Leyden. Selectman. Married Philis Marsh of Guilford, Vt. Children: Noreen Fay; Raymond J.

Ewer, S. Judson, to Leyden 1912. Teaches piano and organ. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts where he was an instructor in botany. Organist in the Leyden Church. Mr. Ewer's mother, a native of Leyden, was much interested in wild flowers.

Farnum, Henry P., to Leyden 1933. Farmer. Lives with two sisters: Lucy, a native of Leyden; and May, a native of Halifax, Vt. They live in home built by George Denison "the only place in Leyden without modern conveniences." House is lighted by oil lamps.

Fisher, Wayne L., to Leyden 1946. Saw post-war service in Germany. Married Edith Reid of Deerfield. Ch: Wayne Jr; Robert; Merton; and Joy. Mrs. Fisher is active in P. T. A. work. She makes fine embroidery.

Flagg, Arthur R., to Leyden 1949. Machinist and carpenter. Married Isabelle Crouch of Brattleboro. Children: Raymond, Edwin and Janice. Mrs. Flagg knits and is interested in hooking rugs.

Fritz, Ursula H., to Leyden 1935. Cosmetician. Active in the Leyden P. T. A. and Eastern Star Fellowship. Married William Fritz. Children: William Roy and Lance Hine. Mrs. Fritz is interested in painting and dramatics. (See also Arts & Crafts)

Gagnon, Eugene R., to Leyden 1953. Toolmaker. Married Blanche M. Grandmaison of Greenfield. Ch: Helen (Parker); Norman; Eugene Albert, a navy veteran of World War II. Mrs. Gagnon makes unusual artificial flowers from fibre paper.

Gerry, Leland E., lives near homesite of Dr. Thomas S. Vining.

Glabach, John B., to Leyden 1900. Dairy farmer. Upon his arrival from Minden, Germany, was employed in the manufacture of handmade cigars on the old Eudy place in southeast Leyden. Married (1) Marie Buntmeir of Greenfield, 1898. Married (2) Nellie Carr of London, 1929. Children: Henry, Herman, Theodore, Wilhelm, John, Jr., Charles, Wilhelmina (Bernard), Sophie (Baker), Ida (Fiske), Emily (Dunn), Dorothy (Sauter). Mr. Glabach was a director of the Leyden REA from 1942 to 1953.

Glabach, Henry A., a native of Leyden. One of the few

remaining blacksmiths and ironworkers of the area. Often carries forge and bellows in truck to far-off assignments. Married, Jessie Wood, Leyden schoolteacher and member of School Committee for 12 years. Mrs. Glabach helped promote the Leyden Central School. Children: Orilla, active in Leyden Church and Sunday School; Raymond, an honor student.

Glabach, Wilhelm C., native of Leyden. Mechanic and blacksmith. Combat engineer, World War II. Married Doris Wilder of Hinsdale, N. H. Children: April Marie; Mary Louise; Sandra Joy; Harold W. Mrs. Glabach is active in the Leyden Woman's Society and the Leyden Church.

Glabach, Charles B., native of Leyden. Dairy farmer. Expert square dancer. Married Henrietta Smith of Buckland, 1953. Children: John Basil and Edward Herman. Mrs. Glabach is the daughter of Basil P. Smith, widely known square dance prompter.

Gray, Sherman W., to Leyden 1957. Veteran World War II, Air Force. Married June Dove of the Lake Champlain area. Ch: Jean Roxanne, Ira Robert, Richelene Felice, Michelene Felica, Kevin Wayne, Cheryl Inez, Laurenel Louise.

Hall, George W., to Leyden 1913, Dairy farmer. Married Violet Bassett (Chapin) of Conway and Leyden. Children (by Arthur Chapin): Arthur; Elizabeth (Dobias); Wayne; Eleanor; John. Ch. (by George Hall): Barbara; Donna & George; Edward; Jeffrey. Mrs. Hall makes fine embroidery.

Herron, Donald C., native of Leyden. Dairy farmer with large herd of purebred Guernseys. Member Berkshire Pioneer Maple Producers' Ass'n. Former selectman. Assessor. Trustee, Leyden Church. Married Ruth M. Lawrence, daughter of the Rev. Charles B. Lawrence. Children: Lawrence D.; Beverly F. (Gale); John R.; William C.; Linda May; Sidney Frank; and Rita Jane.

Hine, Roy A., to Leyden, 1935. Retired. Chairman 1947 Liberty Train Drive. Manager, chain stores in Mass. and Vermont, 14 years. Director of Leyden "Little League" Baseball Club, from 1957 through 1958. Married Helene Munson of the prominent Munson family. Children: Ursula Hine (Fritz); Darwin Douglas. (See also Arts & Crafts)

Hine, Darwin D., to Leyden 1935. Paratrooper, World War II. Dendritian. Cared for famed Joyce Kilmer maple, Montague, Mass., 1956. Married, 1941, Harriet Howes, a native of Leyden, active in church and Sunday School. Children: Sharon Lee;

Glenn Douglas; Kim Allen; Julia Lynn; Mark Aden. Mrs. Hine has sometimes made as many as 70-80 pies for the local County Fair!

Howes, Arthur M., to Leyden 1927. Dairy farmer. Superintendent of Roads, several years. Assessor. Expert with horses. Has maple orchard. A descendant of John de Huse, born in England, 1066 A. D. Married Felixina (Dandeneau) of Hawley (See Arts & Crafts). Children: Russell Arthur; Roger (of Readsboro Vermont); and Elizabeth (Siano) of Plattsburg, N. Y. In 1929, Mrs. Howes won an 11-week newspaper subscription marathon covering Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties.

Howes, Russell A., to Leyden 1926. Dairy farmer. Installed first Leyden T. V., 1951. Married, 1943, Charlotte Snow who came to Leyden in 1931. Mrs. Snow is a past president of the P. T. A., and with her husband managed compilation of the Leyden Cook Book. She specializes in homemade bread and maple cream. Both she and her husband are expert square dancers. Ch: Judy Kay, a 12th generation representative of the American Howes family. Judy is most versatile and imaginative, having taken up the study of New England antiques at age ten! Her brother, David Russell, was born in 1956.

Howes, Clifford C., born Florida Mt., 1892, to Leyden 1894, (d. March 17, 1938). Stage driver and assistant postmaster. Storekeeper. Married Edith M. Tavender of Wales. Mrs. Howes came to Leyden in 1918 at which time she drove about the countryside with her uncle, the Rev. Anthony E. Roberts, the last Leyden minister to use a horse and "buggy." Mrs. Howes was Leyden's last postmistress and has been librarian since 1932. She is extremely active in the Leyden Church and holds several offices. She is an expert dressmaker; and knits Afghans. Ch: George E.; Harriet Minerva (Hine); Clifford O. of Buckland.

Howes, George E., a native of Leyden. Secretary & Treas. Greenfield Farmers' Cooperative Exchange. Master of Guiding Star Grange. Trustee Leyden Church. Secretary Beaver Meadow Cemetery Ass'n. Veteran World War II. Married Dorothy Tacy of Winchester, N. H. Steward of Guiding Star Grange. Leyden Library trustee. Correspondent, Greenfield Recorder-Gazette. Active in Leyden Church. Ch: Pamela June and Edwin Roger.

Howes, Spencer C., to Leyden 1894. Farmer. Town Constable. Leyden radio amateur pioneer as operator of Station W1ARH. Married Gwenlian Alice Tavender of Wales. Mrs. Howes came to Leyden in 1921. She is active in church and town affairs.

Knits special children's wear. Ch. Gwladys [sic]; Ethel (Larson), a missionary in Venezuela; Jean Mary (Duncan).

Johnson, John S., to Leyden 1925. Dairy farmer. Married Anna Victoria. Mrs. Johnson braids and weaves Swedish rag rugs and makes the Hardanger type of embroidery. She is an expert tailoress. Bakes Swedish coffee cake and sweet buns. During the depression made 60 loaves homemade bread 3 times a week. Ch: Harold Ludwig; Edward, Airman 1st Class.

Johnson, Harold L., born in Leyden. Machinist. Married: Anna Phelps of Greenfield. Mrs. Johnson makes her own and her children's clothes. Ch: Shirley (an expert twirler); Carl, Edward, Roland, Ruth and Ann.

Kennedy, Cornelius, to Leyden 1937. Machinist. Married Georgiana Snow of Leyden, 1937. Children: Gerald and Karen. Mrs. Kennedy is employed in Brattleboro; Mr. Kennedy is with the Greenfield Tap and Die Corporation.

Johnson, Walter, to Leyden 1956. Veteran of World War II. Carpenter. Married Ethel Wheelock. Children: Gwendolyn, Madelyn, Bert, Wanita, Clayton, Edna and Ethel.

Koshinsky, Philip, born in Leyden. Veteran World War II. Mail carrier. Married, Rose Marthe of Ohio—of the Women's Army Corps. Children: Sharon Ann, Marilyn Jean, Carol Marie. Both Mr. and Mrs. Koshinsky are active in town affairs.

Leach, Welcome G., to Leyden 1944. Millwright. Married Catherine Arrighi of North Adams. Their son, Vernon K. Leach is an instructor in the Air Force Musical Academy, Denver.

List, Thomas E., to Leyden 1948. Chairman Leyden Selectmen. Operates mink ranch. Married Elizabeth Lauterbach of Westport, Conn. Ch: Thomas E. List, Jr.; Mary Elizabeth; John Patrick; Robert Hans; William Paul; Daniel Joseph. Mr. List is an amateur woodworker.

McDonald, James, to Leyden from Scotland in 1907. Farmer. Married: Elizabeth Hamilton (d. 1954). Of his eight children those born in Leyden are: Mary (Mrs. Clayton Baker); Charlotte (Mrs. Watson Black); Andrew. Mrs. McDonald made fine dairy butter and delicious homemade bread.

McDonald, Andrew, born in Leyden, 1912. Veteran World War II. Farmer. Expert in curing of hams. Married Hazel Black of Northfield. She is employed in communications; makes interesting Afghan coverlets.

Metelica, Mary, to Leyden 1922 from Moscow, Russia. Mar-

ried: Leo Metelica. Purchased Miner farm on Mowry Mountain. Children: John and Leo, Jr.

Metelica, John, born Leyden, 1923. Veteran World War II. Machinist. Married: Margaret Louise Hallett. Children: Jacqueline, Michael and Nancy. The youngest Metelicas conduct frog-jumping contests.

Metelica, Leo, Jr., born Leyden 1933. Technician. Veteran of the Korean War. Taking Arts & Science courses at Holyoke Junior College. Married: Kay Mastaler, 1956. Ch: Kathleen and Joanne Marie.

Muka, Lena, to Leyden 1930 from Adams, Mass. Married Michael S. Muka of Czechoslovakia. Mrs. Muka makes homemade bread and does fine lace work. Children in Leyden: Lewis R.

Muka, Lewis R., to Leyden 1931 from Adams. Dairy and Tree Farmer. Raises locust for fence posts; also Christmas evergreens. Married: Irene Dompier of Keene, N. H. Children: Michael, b. 1957; James Lewis, b. 1958.

Muka, Stephen, Jr., born Leyden 1905. Grassland farmer. Owns homestead on Kately Hill purchased by his father in 1904. Married Hazel Jenkins of Conn. Mrs. Muka does dress designing.

Newcomb, John Hamilton, born Leyden 1871 (d. Leyden 1957). A direct descendant of Governor William Bradford through Major Wm. Bradford, Thomas Bradford, Jerusha Bradford, Peter Newcomb, Hezekiah Newcomb II, Wm. N. Newcomb and Alexander H. Newcomb. Mr. Newcomb's mother was of the prominent Denison family. During his lifetime he served in many official posts in Leyden. In 1903, he married Annie Miner (Bolton), widow of George Dean Bolton. Mrs. Newcomb is a native of Leyden, daughter of Marvell Dayton Miner. Both she and Mr. Newcomb supported the Leyden history project from the start and have aided much in the compilation of this book.

Orr, Herbert C., to Leyden 1928. Employed by general contractor. Trustee of Leyden Church. Leader of Boy Scouts, 1939. Assessor. Married Hannah Badger of Hudson, Massachusetts, 1932. Mrs. Orr is a descendant of Warren Badger of Leyden. She was active in Extension work for many years and Chairman of the Rationing Board during World War II. She is at present Town Auditor. She has designed prize-winning crochet work and enjoys number painting. Ch: William C. Orr, a lieutenant in the Air Force; flew 68 missions over Burma during the late war and was awarded the Flying Cross. Organizer of

the Texas Christian University Flying Club — first of its kind in the U. S.

Osgood, Elihu C., to Leyden 1938. Carpenter. Married Marion Philips, a native of Leyden and granddaughter of James Campbell of this town. Mrs. Osgood is employed at the Greenfield Chamber of Commerce. Ch: Joan and Jean, both married and living in Guilford, Vt. Mrs. Osgood raises African Violets and Gloxinias.

Phillips, Albert A., to Leyden 1905 from Ashfield. Farmer. Raises excellent strawberries. Married Alice Campbell of Leyden. Children: Ralph; Kenneth; and Marion (of Springfield). Ralph, a native of Leyden, is employed at "Denison's Mill." He married Blanche Miller of Colrain. Mrs. Phillips makes hooked and braided rugs. They have one child: Jo-Ann.

Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph S., to Leyden from Princeton, Mass., 1931. Children: Pearl E., a teacher in Leyden schools; Ralph L., dairy farmer, married Alta H. Robbins — one son, Sherman P., born 1954; Esther L., deceased 1941.

Rich, Mrs. Agnes, to Leyden from New Salem, Mass., 1949. The parents of Mrs. Rich were from Oslo, Norway. She makes interesting hand embroidery.

Richardson, Stanley, to Leyden 1952. Dairy farmer. Married Minnie Totman (Patch) of Conway. Mrs. Richardson is a direct descendant of Anneke Jans, pioneer Dutch settler of New Amsterdam. Children (by first marriage): Edith (Mrs. Allen Snow of Leyden); Lowell (of Bernardston). Mrs. Richardson has 12 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She is particularly interested in raising flowers and garden produce by the organic method. As an avocation, she sometimes composes nostalgic New England verse.

Rigoll, Charles, to Leyden from New York City, 1953. Veteran of World War II. X-ray technician. Paints landscapes.

Roberge, Robert J., to Leyden 1957. Technician. Married, Mary Snow, niece of Mrs. Leon Beaudoin. Mrs. Roberge is interested in painting.

Robertson, Ray, born in Leyden, 1891. Dairy farmer. Leyden selectman for many years. Married Elvira Loomis, a native of Hartford, Conn. Mrs. Robertson taught school in Leyden for a short time. She is much interested in handicrafts. Children: Doris (Wells); Dorothy (Apte) of Greenfield.

Robertson, Mrs. Sarah (Hamilton), widow of Walter Robertson. To Leyden 1901. Resided on old Babcock-Miner homestead.

Installed first modern plumbing in Leyden. Ch: Isabel (Slate) of Bernardston; James; Charles; Ralph; Harold; and Floyd of Charlemont. Mrs. Robertson is a Trustee of the Leyden Library. She makes unusually attractive patchwork quilts and braided rugs.

Robinson, Brant A., to Leyden, 1957. Stockbreeder. A graduate of the School of Agriculture, University of Mass. With the U. S. Air Force, 1953-1957. Married, Marcia Britton of Leyden, 1957 — one daughter, Sherilea, born 1958.

Sevene, Henry J., to Leyden, 1952. Dairy farmer. Married Ruth Whitney of Brattleboro. Children: Susan; Kenneth; Donald; Henry; and Dorothy of Northfield.

Sevene, Kenneth W., to Leyden 1956. Dairy farmer. Veteran World War II. Married Ruth Rennie of Manchester, N. H. Children: Kenneth and Judith. Mrs. Sevene is interested in handicrafts and takes special interest in local history.

Severance, Mrs. Flora, to Leyden, 1958. She is a daughter of Jabez Franklin of Guilford, Vt. Makes interesting "crazy" quilts of old-fashioned designs.

Severance, Mildred, born in Leyden 1883. Willard Severance, her adopted nephew, was a World War II casualty. Miss Severance is adept in many of the handicrafts. She was at one time Library Trustee. Her brother, Leon, a Leyden native, was a jeweler and optician. He died in Leyden, 1958.

Shivitz, Bruno, to Leyden 1955.. Retired shop worker. Runs farm on "Paige Hill."

Sloane, Hugh L., to Leyden 1945. Dealer in "architectural antiques." Raises German Shepherd dogs. Mr. Sloane is a descendant of John Mitchell, Irish patriot; and of John Purron Mitchell, one-time mayor of New York City. In 1934, he married Mary Humphreys, poet and artist. (See also Arts and Crafts Section).

Smith, Edward, to Leyden 1951 from Turners Falls. Dairy farmer. Veteran World War I. Married Rosa Rau of Greenfield. Their son, George Edward, married Shiela Dorothy Hoar. Children: Barry George and Cyndie Rose. Mrs. Smith does fine crochet work.

Snow, Arthur, to Leyden 1932 (d. July 1957). Dairy farmer. Married Helen Franklin of Guilford. Ch: Allen; Georgiana (Kennedy); Evelyn (Beaudoin); Louise (Bailey); Charlotte (Howes). As an avocation, Mr. Snow raised many kinds of flowers. Mrs. Snow makes intricate, embroidered chair backs.

Snow, Allen R., to Leyden 1932. Dairy Farmer. Active member of Leyden Fire Department. Married Edith Patch of Conway. Ch: Ruth (Teller) of Chesterfield, N. H.; Peter; Annette.

Snow, Edward W., native of Leyden. Dendritian. Married Helen Dorothy Horrocks who is interested in handicrafts. Their son, Edward Joseph, was born in 1957.

Stebbins, William S., to Leyden, July 1910 from Canada. Farmer. Married Cora Barton, sister of Gilbert Barton of Leyden. Their son, Milton Stebbins, is employed in Greenfield. Mrs. Stebbins makes interesting hooked rugs.

Studer, Arnold, to Leyden 1956 from Northfield. Veteran of World War I. Married Mabel Wilcox of Greenfield. Mrs. Studer is interested in New England handicrafts.

Thayer, LeRoy R., to Leyden 1919. Retired. Married Annie Myra Grover of Leverett, Mass. During one season, Mr. Thayer preserved over 400 jars of Leyden's abundant fruits and vegetables!

Weaver, Quentin, to Leyden 1954. Veteran, World War II. Married Eva Wheeler of Colrain. Children: David, Nancy and Renee.

Wells, John, to Leyden 1948. Teamster. Married Doris Robertson who was born in Leyden, 1915. Mr. Wells is building a new home on the site of the old Robert Riddell place in West Leyden. Mrs. Wells embroiders old-fashioned samplers.

Whitney, Bert E., born Guilford, Vt. (d. 1958). Son of Frances E. Whitney and Eunice Carey. A life-long resident of Leyden, was much interested in the Leyden History. Known as "The Sage of Gore Hollow." Married Mary E. Moulton. Their daughter, Clara, was a member of the Leyden Church.

Wilder, Harold O., to Leyden 1936. Dairy farmer. Fence viewer; road supervisor. Veteran World War I. Married Eudora Delarye, a trained governess from Michigan. Ch: Doris (Glabach); Harry O.; Dorothy (Smith); Jack Edward; June Elizabeth.

Wilder, Jack E., b. Putney, Vt., to Leyden 1936. Dairyman. Married Lucy May Franklin of Guilford. Ch: Marsha June; Linda Marie; Joyce Mary. Mrs. Wilder is a direct descendant of John Howland, 1620 Mayflower passenger.

Wiles, Norman V., from Nova Scotia to Leyden, 1948. Foreman, Mohawk Orchards. Married Frieda Coburn of Colrain. Ch: Barry David; Gregory George; Norman Vincent; Richard

Colin; Sharon Jane. Mrs. Wiles is interested in wild birds and paints landscapes as an avocation.

Williams, Walter, to Leyden, 1957. Technician. Veteran World War II. Married Mildred Supprise of Colrain. Ch: Betty Ann; Walter Frederick; Heidi Lee. The Williams family lives on the Peter Gates homestead where the mother of the scientist, John Riddell, was born.

Zimmerman, Casper P., to Leyden 1937. Selectman 11 years. Member of Building Committee for Central School. Married Marion Miner of Griswoldville, daughter of Leyden's Homer Miner. Mrs. Zimmerman was medical secretary to Dr. H. M. Kemp of Shelburne. She is a member of the Leyden School Committee and a leader in Extension Service projects. Children: Elaine (Kimball); Philip H.; and Paul, a native of Leyden. Mrs. Zimmerman braids and hooks rugs.

Zimmerman, Philip H., native of Leyden. Dairy farmer. Married Ann Paulin of Montague City, Mass. Children: Teresa Ann and Bruce Philip.

Zimmerman, William A., to Leyden, 1953. Engineer. Veteran World War II. Lives on old "Ethan Allen Highway." Plays piano as an avocation.

Those now living within, or owning property within the old Leyden Hessian settlement include the following: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Arnold; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gadd; Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hutchinson and family; LeRoy and Edna (Carpenter) Tyler; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin W. F. Dyer, Jr., with their sons, Edwin, 3rd, and Peter.

Leyden Summer Residents: While many New England hill towns have been taken over by Summer residents, Leyden is an exception. Those few who do own Summer homes, however, are "Leyden lovers" and include: Edward G. Armstrong, executive of the Union & New Haven Trust Co., who came to Leyden in 1907; Louise Johnson, art director in Watertown, Conn. public schools; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Parker of Greenfield who helped organize the Leyden Easter sunrise service; Mrs. Betty Lee Potter of Arlington, Va., daughter of the late Richard D. Lee of Greenfield; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Garr of Stamford, Conn.; Basil P. Smith, professional square dance prompter; Henry S. Labbee, local promoter of horseback riding; Richard H. Campbell, district manager of Western Mass. Electric Co.; Andrew Canedy, local businessman and descendant of the Strange and Carson

Leyden families; Dr. Horace Perry, headmaster of the Long Island Woodmear School; Donald Swain, a vice-president of Millers Falls Tool Co. Other Leyden Summer residents include: Angelo Bruno, Eugene Singley, Charles Springer, Alfred Gass, Howard Gooley, Edgar Collis, Maynard Squires, Leon W. Fiske, Jr., Arthur A. Miller, John Schmidt, William Webb, Everett Freyenhagen and Charles W. Erhardt. Just over the northern Leyden border is the Summer home of Rudolf Serkin, famed American pianist.

NOTES ON PIONEER LEYDEN FAMILIES

ALEXANDER, Solomon came to Leyden from Conn. His son, Elisha B. Alexander, was a pioneer veterinarian and Captain in the State Militia. His children married into the Gates and Babcock families. William settled on the old farm at the head of Alexander Road. Elisha D. Alexander was a carriage-maker. Draper Alexander, a descendant of Elisha D., ran a saw mill in West Leyden. He was a veterinarian, Deacon of the West Leyden Church, and delivered babies!

BRIGGS, Owen was one of the guard which helped precipitate the downfall of Benedict Arnold. A great-grandfather, John Briggs of Portsmouth, R. I., swore allegiance to King Charles in 1639. He was Inspector of Arms, builder of stocks, ran an "Ordinary" and was witness at a witch trial. Enoch, a great-grandson, was Quartermaster of a Newport cavalry regiment from 1765 to 1766. He came to Leyden with his wife, Judith Wilbur, riding pillion in the Spring of 1777 at which time he bought of Deerfield's Jonathan Ashley, 104 acres Leyden land for 250 lbs. He built one of Leyden's earliest frame houses on the County Road. His house, the present List place, still stands close to the Leyden stones which mark his grave. His son, Owen, served with Conn. troops during the Revolution. It is said he set out from Leyden on the famous "dark day." Owen's grandson, Alden Bradford Briggs, married Sarah Elizabeth Arms. Their son, Henry Kirk Briggs, born 1867, undoubtedly was named for Leyden's sculptor, Henry Kirke Brown. The name of "Kirk" has been carried down through eight generations of the Briggs family to Hazel Kirk Briggs Mills of Deerfield. The Bradford and Alden names also tie in with this family. Hence, it is connected not only with Mayflower pioneers, but with Leyden's outstanding citizen, Henry Kirke Brown.

A mysterious Zadoc Briggs, listed as a Revolutionary soldier in 1777, first appears on Leyden records as a Fence Viewer, April 7, 1788. After signing the Jason Parmenter petition (in 1787) we find him living near Wm. Dorril in 1790. In 1795, however, he faded out of the Leyden picture when he purchased Bernardston lands from Parmenter and others.

BARDWELL, Robert, of London, a soldier in R. I., 1675. Was a sergeant under Capt. Turner in the Falls Fight, 1676. After the war, he settled in Hatfield where he was proficient in making wool hats. His great-grandson, Consider, settled in Leyden ca. 1791 at which time he married Anna Benjamin. Of his eight children born in Leyden, two became bankers: Jarvis, President of the Shelburne Falls Bank; Samuel, a banker in Iowa. Fanny, b. June 27, 1799, married Peter Bliss of Leyden. In the 1798 Leyden property evaluation list, the homes of Consider Bardwell and Peter Bliss are listed.

BROWN, Charles, of Suffolk, England, first Brown in America of the sculptor Brown line. In 1863, the sculptor's brother, Samuel C. Brown married Sarah McCloud of Rowe, Massachusetts. Their daughter, Ellen L. Brown, now in her 96th year was born on the old homestead in Leyden. Reverting to the "doctoring" strain in her grandparent's family, Miss Brown went early into the nursing profession, after working in the Leyden store to save money for her training. She soon became a registered nurse and when the first hospital was organized in Greenfield, she became head nurse under Dr. Willard H. Pierce, leading physician of the area. In later life, Miss Brown helped compile a voluminous manuscript biography about her illustrious uncle, Henry Kirke Brown, and today has in her possession the Brown portraits of her grandfather and grandmother, along with attractive pictures of the old Brown homestead in Leyden. Some time ago, Miss Brown designed and framed a unique floral piece made from her father's hair.

BUDINGTON, Jonathan, born in Groton, Conn., Oct. 1, 1732, was a sea Captain and visited England, the West Indies and China. His son, Jonathan, by his first wife, Priscilla Hyde, was captured during the Revolution while privateering on the high seas and died on a British prison ship. Jonathan, Sr. also was captured, but was released.

When 60 years of age, Jonathan Budington took up land in Leyden in exchange for a debt owed him by a Deerfield "merchant." Budington built a log cabin "in thickly wooded wilder-

ness" (on the site of the present Cobb farm), but soon after erected his capacious dwelling house said to have been the best in the county north of Greenfield.

Upon the death of his first wife in 1798, he married Hannah Buckland, a pioneer Leyden schoolteacher from Hartford, Conn. Capt. Budington was an Esquire and was much in demand to settle disputes and make deeds.

According to Henry A. Budington's history of the family, Jonathan Budington "owned the best two-horse coach in Leyden — so heavy it was about all the horses could do to pull it up to Meetinghouse Hill." At one time he imported a piano from London for his daughter, Priscilla.

He is reported as a jolly old gentleman, yet keen and shrewd in a bargain. It is said he lost several thousands as a result of the Revolutionary War when Continental paper money was repudiated by the U. S. government. Henry Budington writes: "I saw in my boyhood, a Chinese tea chest nearly full of this Continental money standing on a chamber floor of the old Leyden homestead. There were bills from one dollar to one hundred dollars denomination." This tea chest full of money may have been the foundation for the speculative story that Captain Jonathan Budington had, in his day, been a member of the "Jolly Roger" sea rovers.

CAMPBELL, James, ancestor of the present-day Leyden Campbell family, born on the high seas, arrived in this country during the third quarter of the 19th Century. He settled on the Glen Road (near the Agrippa Wells homestead) with his children, William and Alice. William A. Campbell, a town officer for many years, married Gratia Severance, a descendant, not only of the prominent Severance clan, but of Dr. Thomas Vining, leading Leyden physician. Mrs. Campbell was an early promoter for a Leyden History. Her son, Harold V. Campbell, is a member of the Leyden History Advisory Committee; her daughter, Florence, was a child prodigy who died young.

CARPENTER — The Leyden Carpenters are traced back to Dilwyne Parish in Herefordshire, England, and descend from John and William who came to this country in 1638 on the "Bevis." These Carpenters have been traced back to 1303 and are direct descendants of Isabella Plantagenet. Alice Carpenter, a cousin of William, married Governor William Bradford, Aug. 14, 1623. The first Carpenter in the Leyden area was Nathaniel who moved from Guilford into Leyden to avoid "Yorker" disputes.

His sons David and Abel (with their father's guidance) ran the Carpenter Tavern at the old center for many years. Frank Berton Carpenter, a descendant of David, after graduating from college, became one of Virginia's leading chemists, and was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. During World War I he was a member of the U. S. Naval Consulting Board. Through Jotham O. Carpenter and Miles Sheridan Carpenter, Bernice Carpenter Shaw, genealogist of the Carpenter family, is a direct descendant in the William Carpenter line. The well-known Bernardston physician and the present-day Carpenters of that town, also are descended from the royal Plantagenets.

CHAPIN, Samuel, of Dartmouth, England, to America in 1635. In 1643, was an early settler in Springfield, Massachusetts and soon became a leading figure in the government of that town. His descendants, through Japhet, Caleb, Selah, Daniel and Oliver were pioneer settlers of Fall Town and Leyden. Hester C. McKeage, librarian of Greenfield is a direct descendant of Samuel Chapin, as is the writer's family. A monument to Mr. Chapin was erected in Springfield's public square.

CORSE — See "The Years 1846-1858" for the Corse connection with "Milwaukee Harriet" and Samuel Chapin of Springfield.

DARLING, Moses of Guilford, Vt., was the ancestor of the Leyden Darlings. Of this clan, Uriah T. stood out, in that he produced 12 little Darlings! The eldest son, Uriah T., Jr. was a storekeeper in Leyden for 17 years and taught school besides. His son, Fred Darling, through his wife, bequeathed a fine microscope to the children of Leyden.

DAVENPORT — Charles Milton Davenport — graduate of Harvard Law School, philanthropist, Trustee of Williams College, husband of Ellen Emerson, was one of the outstanding sons of Leyden. His great-grandfather, Oliver D. Davenport, settled in Little Compton, R. I. It was his son, Oliver, Jr., who first came to Leyden, and as a professional carpenter built many early Leyden homes. He also was a cattle dealer, and marketed his herds in Boston — a trip which took from Monday morning, sun up, to Friday evening.

Calvin Davenport, son of Oliver, born 1805, married Lucy White of Rowe, Mass. Their son, Charles, attended Brattleboro schools and later became a prominent lawyer. His brother, William, father of Charles M. Davenport, was born with ex-

tremely poor vision, but despite this handicap, became one of the largest stock dealers in the Leyden area. His eldest son, Stephen, carried on the Leyden farm till he removed to Greenfield to live with his sister, Mary Davenport Wentworth. Sarah B. Davenport, sister of Charles M. Davenport, compiled a booklet covering the life of her well-known brother.

This booklet describes the friendship of Charles for Robert Allyn Budington, a Leyden native, and graduate of Williams College. It tells of Mr. Davenport's deep concern for the development of the Williams Library and Art Gallery to which he contributed his Sir Joshua Reynolds paintings. The booklet adds that "in the 1900 generation, no one ever did more for Williams College than Charles Davenport." We also learn that Mr. Davenport was a Member of the Mass. Historical Society, wrote a paper on Shays' Rebellion and raised prize-winning Guernseys at his Ladderlook Farm in Leyden. The tragedy of his life was the untimely death of his wife, Ellen Emerson, granddaughter of Concord's great essayist and poet. The Ellen Emerson House at Smith College was named in memory of Mr. Davenport's young bride.

DENISON — The first Denison in America, William, was born in 1586. He arrived in Roxbury about 1631. His son, George, was known as the "Miles Standish of Roxbury." David, a great-grandson, settled in New London, Conn. He was an officer in the Revolution. When Benedict Arnold burned New London, Captain David lost all his property and soon moved to Guilford, Vt. In 1785, he settled on the Alexander Road in Leyden where he lived until his death in 1808. David's son, George, married into the prominent Leyden Babcock family. Other descendants of David served as Leyden schoolteachers for many years. Arad Denison, a miller, was the inventor of a patented mouse trap! Avery J. Denison and Carroll Denison of West Leyden were millwrights — a trade carried on today in East Colrain by descendants of David Denison.

Henry Denison, the Guilford elegist-poet, was the son of the Honorable Gilbert Denison, and grandson of Captain David of Leyden. Upon the death of his friend, Royall Tyler, Jr., Henry wrote a beautiful elegy. Shortly after this, however, his own health failed, and he, too, passed from the scene. His verse is preserved in the archives of the Royall Tyler family and stands out as a definite literary achievement by the son of a distinguished Leyden man.

FOSTER — This name was originally Forester when early members of the family served as foresters to the British kings. The first of this name in Leyden was the revolutionary soldier, Ezekiel — the man who broke up the Dorrilite clan. A son, Ezra, born in Bernardston, became captain of Militia. Ransom Foster who settled on the old Foster homestead (now Dobias) in Beaver Meadow, married Clarissa Frizzell, a descendant of the pioneer, Reuben. Ransom's brother, Ezra, Jr., married (1) Sarah Wilbur and (2) Susan Mowry. Frank R. Foster who settled on the old homestead where Ezekiel built in 1782, was the forebear of the Foster families in Bernardston and neighboring towns today.

FRANKLIN — Though the Franklins settled in Guilford, Vt., just north of the Leyden line on Ethan Allen Highway, descendants of the early pioneers, whose ancestry has been traced back to Pilgrim John Howland of the Mayflower, now reside in Leyden. According to Clara Franklin Fay, the Leyden branch of the Franklin family also ties in with the family of our late President, Calvin Coolidge. Marsha (Franklin) Wilder, born in Leyden 1957, is a 12th generation Mayflower descendant. Though no definite tie has been established with the famed Benjamin Franklin, it is believed that Leyden's Franklins are collateral descendants of the great American. Philip, the founder of the Franklin family of Guilford and Leyden, is said to have been a man of steel. In 1777, he served actively in the Vermont Militia at the age of 70! Aside from Franklin descendants now living in Leyden, Forest Franklin of Guilford, Ray Franklin of Bernardston and the Franklin Thorn family of Deerfield, trace their ancestry back to Philip, the Franklin pioneer of this area.

FRIZZELL — William des Fraseau, the first of this line, was knighted by William the Conqueror in Normandy. When descendants removed to Scotland, the name became Frazier. Here, they fought under King Charles II against Oliver Cromwell, but after the defeat of Charles in 1651, the name was changed to Frizzell. It was in this form the name was first found in this country, when James Frizzell appeared in Boston about 1652. Later, the family became quite prominent: One descendant of James presented a bell to the Old North Church; another bequeathed money to Harvard College. The ancestors of the Leyden Frizzells, beginning with James, come down through his son, Samuel, Samuel, Jr., Reuben, Reuben, Jr., Rufus and Herbert. Allen and Edward Frizzell, both natives of Leyden, though they do not live in town today, return each year to lay flowers

on the graves of their ancestors in Beaver Meadow and Frizzell Hill cemeteries.

GATES — Coming to Leyden about 1780 with his bride, Mary Allen of Groton, Conn., Peter Gates soon erected a sturdy Cape Cod home on the River Road close to the homestead and mill of Henry Thorn. This house was, according to West Leyden historian, Clifford Carey, exactly like the Newcomb homestead on Leyden's East Hill. Nearby, David Gates, Peter's brother, built a home and put up a mill on Green River. Gates Hill, east of the River Road was named for these brothers.

On November 22, 1787, a daughter, Lephe, was born to Peter and Mary Gates. This girl later became the mother of the pioneer space theorist, John L. Riddell. A son, Ephraim, born in 1783, carried on the farm, as did his son, Ephraim Allen Gates. "Allen Gates," as he was known, married Eunice Franklin of Mayflower stock. Allen's daughter, Hannah, married James Baldwin Miner — thus uniting two of Leyden's pioneer families.

MARCY — Frank P. Marcy, killed in action at the Battle of Shiloh, April 7, 1862, was the only Leyden man to lose his life while on active duty during the Civil War. The early Leyden Marcy's were millwrights, the first in town being Thomas from Connecticut. His grandson married into the Darling family. Charles A. Marcy, Leyden born, moved to Charlemont and there became a tin peddler. Ichabod, who lived at the foot of Frizzell Hill-East as a youth, prepared for college in Shelburne Falls and graduated from Wesleyan University in 1839. After his marriage to Sarah Hawes of Maine he took up ministerial duties in the Leyden area.

MINER — First of this name in the area was Cyrus Miner who came to Leyden about 1800 with his bride, Fanna Clark, of Hopkinton, R. I. Two hundred and fifteen years before this, William Miner, the "first" of the clan, is found in Chew Magna, England. A grandson, Thomas Miner, born April 23, 1608, is on record as a lieutenant in the Indian colonial wars. He came to this country aboard the "Arabella" with John Winthrop. Thomas and his wife, Grace Palmer, were among early settlers of Stonington, Conn. President Ulysses S. Grant was a lineal descendant from this marriage.

Cyrus Miner of Leyden was a great-grandson of Thomas 1st. Cyrus had 12 children, seven of whom were born here. Cyrus, Jr. was a pioneer fruit-grower in West Leyden and lived with his wife, the former Freelove Packard, on the Peleg Babcock place.



West Leyden Pastoral Scene

Cyrus' son, Charles, served three years in the Civil War and took part in the Battle of Shiloh. Other Leyden Miners engaged in carriage-making, milling and bookkeeping. Anson D. Miner, a descendant of Cyrus, was superintendent of schools in North Adams, Mass. for 28 years. Mrs. Annie Miner Newcomb, of Leyden is the granddaughter of Cyrus C. Miner. Milo T. Miner of Greenfield and Wilfred B. Miner of Orange are descendants of Cyrus Miner through the Gates and Franklin families.

Maude Miner Hadden, founder of the well-known Students' International Union and Institute of World Affairs, is an outstanding member of the Miner family of Leyden. The daughter of James Rathbone and Mary Elizabeth (Newcomb) Miner, she is not only a Leyden native, but through the Newcomb family has direct descent from William Bradford of the Mayflower.

Mrs. Hadden received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Smith College, her Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Columbia University, and an honorary degree from Russell Sage College. Early in her career she was appointed to an important post in the Magistrate's Court of New York City. Later, she was founder and president of the Girls' Service League in Manhattan.

In 1924, she founded, with her husband, the Students' International Union in Geneva, Switzerland. Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, this institution was transferred to Twin Lakes, Salisbury, Connecticut. On one occasion, Mrs. Hadden was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in the Institute of World Affairs.

In 1933, she founded the Palm Beach Round Table which is attended in winter by leading lecturers on world problems. Mrs. Hadden is the author of numerous books on social problems; and has written several books of verse. She is a member of the Poetry Society of America and of the Academy of American Poets. She is vice-president of the Phi Beta Kappa Associates.

MOWRY — John Mowry, one of Rhode Island's pioneer settlers, was the grandfather of Leyden's pioneer, George Mowry. George, a clothier by trade, came to Leyden about 1798 with his wife Polly (Brown) from Woodstock, Conn. In 1801, after the death of his first wife, he married Polly Avery of Leyden and settled on "Mowry Mountain" near the present Cobb and Fisher homesteads. In 1802, he became involved in the William Dorril controversy, according to the Mowry genealogy, and with

other sympathizers built a machine to do away with the man who broke up the Dorrilites. But something went wrong and the machine did not work!

Later, George Mowry was chosen representative to the State Legislature for six terms, was chairman of the Leyden selectmen and justice of the peace for 20 years. His son, David, carried on the Mowry farm after his father's death in 1851. After attending Luther B. Lincoln's academy in Deerfield, David taught school for many years. David R. Mowry and George Mowry of Ashfield are direct descendants of pioneer George.

NEWCOMB — The origin of this foremost Leyden name has been traced back to Hugh Newcome of Saltfleetby County, England. The name, first found on record in 1189 A.D. signifies "strangers newly arrived." Captain Andrew Newcomb was first of the name to America. After settling near Kittery, Maine, at Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard and in Lebanon, Conn., the Newcombs appeared in western Massachusetts. Hezekiah Newcomb's marriage to Jerusha Bradford in 1716 introduced the Mayflower Pilgrim strain into the line. Descendants of this union settled in Leyden. Hezekiah Newcomb, Jr. who built a home on the Couch Brook Road was a most colorful character. As state representative, he drove his ox team to Boston and sold market produce en route, proceeds from which he deposited in a huge leather wallet. This story comes from John Hamilton Newcomb, last of the Newcomb line in Leyden where his family resided for over 215 years. John Bearse Newcomb, a descendant of Hezekiah, compiled the Newcomb genealogy.

Many descendants of the Hezekiah Newcomb family live in the neighboring towns of West Deerfield, Greenfield, Bernardston and Shelburne. Many of these are descendants of Harris Alexander and Allen Sylvester Newcomb.

ROGERS — Early Leyden families of this name stemmed from Rhode Island. The first local reference is to Henry Rogers of Springfield who claimed Lot #22, First Division in 1739. In 1795, on August 26th, Joseph Rogers married Content Starke of Leyden. In 1816, still another Rogers—Peter—settled near John Euda, the Hessian. In 1818, Elder Peter Rogers is recorded as having married Nancy, Grace and Hester Rogers (his daughters) to local townsmen. Hester married Ruggles Bagg, son of Leyden pioneer, Israel Bagg. She is the three times great-grandmother of Hester C. McKeage, librarian of Greenfield.

SEVERANCE — Genealogists record that the root of the Severance name was Severns. It is known that the father of Lucius Septimus Severns, born in 146 A. D. at Septis, North Africa, was a Roman citizen. It is from this man that the Severance clan originated. The Universal Lexicon states that the Severns name was prominent in Rome as early as the 8th Century, and passed from Rome to Greece. Marcus Aurelius Severins, born in Tarsin, Italy, in 1589, was a distinguished Latin physician. From Italy, the name is traced to Denmark, and from there to England.

At the time of Henry VIII, about 1520, Thomas Severans lived in Worcester County, England. In 1634, his descendant, John Severance, sailed in the good ship "Elizabeth" for this country. In 1637, John became a member of the first military organization in America — The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. John Severance, Jr. settled in Deerfield, Massachusetts; his son, Joseph, was in the Meadow Fight following the 1704 Deerfield Massacre. As a result of wounds received in this battle, he was granted a 200-acre tract "east of Northfield, bounded south on Mount Grace." Joseph's grandson, Matthew, was the first of his Severance generation to live in Leyden. His history is briefly enscribed on a tombstone in Leyden's South Cemetery. It reads:

"Matthew Severance, whose parents lived in Deerfield, was the first white child born in Vermont. He served in the French and Indian War and while on a scout near Lake George was taken captive by the Indians, ran the gauntlet & made his escape by hiding 3 nights & 2 days in a hollow log. In old age he came to Leyden to his sons: Born Fort Dummer, Brattleboro, Vermont, June — 1735. Died, Leyden, March 14, 1816."

Matthew's son, Matthew, purchased a 100-acre farm on the upper reaches of the Budington Brook about 1793. When Matthew first visited the Leyden hills, some ten years before, he wrote: "I found little accomodation or settlements in the town; the country was in a wild and uncultivated state. For human habitation there was little more pretentious than the log cabin; the traveler was guided by marked trees."

Chester, the son of Matthew, was the father of Chester Wells Severance, Leyden's first "historian." Chester W. taught school in Leyden at the age of 17 after attending the Academy

in Shelburne Falls. In 1852, he purchased the old Perry farm atop Frizzell Hill West, and there settled with his wife, daughter of Dr. Willard A. Wilkins, prominent Leyden physician and educator. Mr. Severance was a pioneer in organizing the Leyden Library. He was also something of a musician and taught both voice and violin. A five column summary of his Centennial address appeared in the Franklin Gazette of August 14, 1909. Charles Sidney Severance, Greenfield historian, is a direct descendant of the Leyden Severance family, as is Ella Mary Severance Davis and her children of Shelburne. Gratia (Severance) Campbell, daughter of Charles F. Severance of Leyden, was an early promotor for a Leyden History. She contributed through her son, Harold, much of the above information on the Severance family.

SHATTUCK — This Leyden name was also written "Shadhock" when the first of the clan, William, appeared in Boston about 1640. Thomas Shattuck was the pioneer in this area. In 1771 he was a resident of Petersham when he purchased a first division lot in the hills of Leyden. His son, Ezra, was the Dorrilite shoemaker of Frizzell Hill. Ezra's son, Rufus, purchased the Cunnabell mills; Shattuck Brook, the mill site, was named in his honor. Rufus' son, Ezra became a portrait painter, but died at an early age. The Shattucks have left their mark in many sections of the country, including Berkeley, California where one of the main streets is named for a Shattuck son; and in Boston where Shattuck Street was named for Dr. Frederick C. Shattuck, prominent professor of medicine at Harvard. His son, Dr. George C. Shattuck, who is on "The Nature Conservancy" board of governors, has expressed genuine interest in the Leyden "Church Woods" plan.

SHELDON — Ebenezer Sheldon, a collateral ancestor of the well-known historian, was a captive in the 1704 French and Indian raid on Old Deerfield, but he returned safely and operated a tavern in the Old Indian House. In 1744, he sold out and removed to Fall Fight Town where he built Sheldon's Fort. He was the only man to hold out in this fort during the last French War and was subsequently named "Old Indian Fighter." His grandson, Reuben, was Leyden's first postmaster. Salmon, Reuben's brother, joined the Dorrilites and settled in southeastern Leyden. Here, one of his descendants made a small pond on a brook at the foot of Sheldon's Hill. On this "2 x 4" lake he used to go rowing on Sundays after church!

STEBBINS—This line is traced back to 1080 A. D. when Henry de Ferrieres, a Stebbins ancestor, was appointed by William the Conqueror to help compile the Domesday Book — the first survey of landed property in Old England. In 1200, John de Stebbing (a descendant through the Ferrieres and Peverell families) held a moated manor house on a 4,300-acre estate. His father had been a royal consort to King Richard I, King John and King Henry III.

On this side of the water, the name was spelled Stebbins when Rowland, son of Thomas, appeared on these shores aboard the "Francis" in 1634. In 1635, he removed from Roxbury with William Pynchon to establish the settlement of Springfield, Mass. Rowland's son, John, was an early settler in Northampton, but died mysteriously, some say as the result of witchcraft. John Stebbins, Jr. was the only man to come out alive at the Bloody Brook massacre in 1675, but his entire family (which included his wife, Dorothy Alexander and six children) was captured at Deerfield in 1704, and marched through the Leyden woods toward Canada. John's grandson, Colonel Joseph Stebbins, was a hero at Bunker Hill. One of his descendants married into Leyden's Matthew Severance clan. The Directory of Ancestral Heads of New England Families states: "The ancient gentility of this family was duly recognized as having been descended from the most ancient and celebrated houses of England."

STRANGE — Robert, first of the name in America, arrived aboard the three-masted sailing vessel "Arabia" landing in New York about 1848. He was of Scotch-Irish descent, and came on the wave of Irish immigrants of the 1848 period. His ancestors, we are told, were of French origin, but when they became small in stature, the men went to Scotland to seek tall and sturdy wives. During the Wars of the Roses, one of the clan fought so valiantly, he was dubbed "De La Strong" by the king. With this title went a fine castle where homage was paid him each year with bowers of beautiful white roses.

Attracted by the similarity of terrain with Northern Ireland, Robert Strange, though trained as a linen weaver, took up farming in the Leyden hills. Here, in 1851, he purchased a 400-acre tract on Frizzell Hill from patriarch, Edward Nelson, one-time fighter in Shays' Rebellion. Strange later married Elizabeth Black whose family also had emigrated from Ireland. Mrs. Harry Gortner, a descendant of pioneer Robert, reports that the family house in Leyden was most elaborate; that all the

doorways, doors and paneling were of solid mahogany. The pioneer's namesake, Robert Miner Strange, lives today in a neighboring town.

THORN — The first record of this family in Leyden is in 1785 when the birth of Rebecca to Prudence and Henry Thorn is recorded. Six other children were born to this couple who settled in the northwest part of Leyden on "Thorn Brook." Here Henry built his saw and grist mill which flourished for many years. His youngest son, Avery Noyes Thorn, born in 1807, was named for two of the nearest neighbors — Nathaniel Avery and Oliver Noyes. Crandall Thorn, named for neighbor Crandall, is said to have smuggled his son-in-law out of the country during the Civil War. "Gore Hollow" was up in arms because of this, and lively "cross-fire" ensued. The case was never proved conclusively, however.

The Thorns married into the Miner and Denison families of Leyden. It is believed that Dr. E. C. Thorn of Greenfield was a descendant of this branch of the Thorn family.

The Leyden Cemeteries: Because old cemetery stones often reveal genealogical data not found elsewhere, we are including in this chapter the story of Leyden's graveyards with background history and names of outstanding pioneers found in each burying plot.

Beaver Meadow Cemetery, the first in Leyden, was laid out in 1791 "on the northeast corner of Lieut. Daniel Newcomb's homelot and on the southeast corner of Selah Chapin's lot, both pieces joining to make one plot." On Dec. 6, 1790, Selah Chapin gave a receipt for 1 pound, 6 shillings in return for "60 rods of ground for a burying lot" and on April 27, 1791, Lieut. Dan'l Newcomb gave a receipt for 10 shillings 6 pence for 26 rods of ground for a burying lot." Austin Dobias, Sr. recently digging a grave on the south side of Beaver Meadow Cemetery, unearthed stones which may well have been the foundations of Daniel Newcomb's homestead.

Upon the adjoining Newcomb-Chapin lots, many of Leyden's pioneers were laid to rest. These include: Lieut. Daniel Newcomb; Capt. Solomon Alexander; Capt. Michael Frizzell; Capt. David Denison; Dr. Benjamin Morgan; Selah Chapin; Daniel Chapin; Elisha Burnham; Thomas Hunt; Reuben Sheldon; Alpheus Barstow; Joshua and Martha Enos; Ner Wells — and under the inscription "A Soldier of 1776" with Old Glory waving

nearby, is stretched the giant frame of William Dorril — one-time fighter in His Majesty's service!

On March 15, 1792, Phineus Crumb of West Leyden signed a receipt for one pound, fifteen shillings as payment for 80 rods of land "for a buryhill" at the southeast corner of his farm. This is known today as the West Leyden Cemetery. Here lie the bones of Elder Joseph Green, Pastor Asa Hebard, pioneer Oliver Babcock, Peleg Babcock, Ezra Plumb and many of the early Clarks, Miners, Crandalls, Averys, Denisons, Stantons, Cooks, Olmsteds, Wordens, Burdicks, Gates and Potters. Here lies Abigail Brown, "relict of Joshua Brown of Rhode Island . . . a captain in the French and Indian Wars." Here, in the Thorn lot, lies the body of a young and beautiful girl whose untimely death is symbolized on her tombstone by the inscription of a drooping, budded rose.

The earliest stone in the South Cemetery is dated 1797. This stands above the grave of little Mary Henry, daughter of Andrew and Thankful Henry. Here, too, is the stone of Matthew Severance, "first white child born in Vermont." And nearby lies the body of his great-grandson, Willard, who in 1944, died in action on the fields of France. Surnames found in the old northern section of this burying ground include the Bullocks, Carpenters, Mortons, Clarks, and members of the Corse family.

On April 25, 1815, Benjamin Grennell of East Leyden, deeded a portion of his lands to the town for a burying ground on East Hill. The deed reads in part: "Beginning seven rods and ten links from the northeast corner of my holme lot (#58) on the road south of said corner, running east ten rods to a Stake & Stones . . . " In this picturesque yard where graceful white birches stand sentinel, lie the Hezekiah Newcombs, the Reuben Frizzells, the Rufus Frizzells, Julius Chapin, Benj. Grinnell, Rufus Hastings, the Nelsons, the Potters, the Sheldons and the Willises — all settlers on Frizzel Hill. One child of Abel Perry also lies here.

On January 26, 1789, the Leyden town warrant contained the following rather ghoulis article: "To see if the District will give leave to Dig up and remove their Dead that is Buried scattering about . . . " Until this time no adequate measures had been taken to provide centralized burial places in Leyden. Hence, private burial plots were laid out close to the early homesteads.

Such private yards were perhaps the most expedient when

we consider that the departed were customarily carried from their homes to their last resting places by the nearest of kin. And even after community burial lots were laid out, eight bearers were assigned the task of carrying the bier all the way to the yard. Evidence of this practice is made clear in the layout of a Guilford, Vt., cemetery near Packer's Corners. It is located 150 feet from the main road down a steep bank and is enclosed by a solid stone wall with only one narrow entrance gate three feet wide!

In Leyden, it was not till 1801 that the town voted to procure a hearse for public use; and it's safe to say that most, if not all, those buried before this time were lovingly carried to their rest — all the way. It was not till the late 18th Century that the departed were transported to their graves in rural New England.

Today there are a number of interesting private Leyden graveyards still intact. The Hessian Cemetery in the southeast part of town already has been described in the Hessian section of this book. Other private yards include the small Stedman lot where are the graves of Mrs. Lucy Stedman who died in 1789 "in ye 21 year of her age" and Miss Rebecca Stedman who died in 1806. On the old Enoch Briggs place, now occupied by Thomas E. List, are the gravestones of Enoch Briggs and other members of his family. A lone gravestone, found in fields south of the John Glabach farm (and subsequently used as a doorstep) bore the inscription "Newton, September 9th." A curious granite monument, 5 feet high and a foot square recently was unearthed by the Wayne Fishers in a building foundation on the old Mowry place. There was no name on the stone pillar, but on one side, inscribed in a circle were the words: "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

The Charles Packer lot on the Old County Road, contains three stones. The first reads: Charles Packer, d. Sept. 30, 1835, aged 91 years; the second reads: Mary Walworth, (wife of Charles Packer) d. March 18, 1814, aged 63 years. A third diminutive stone is marked "C.P." for Charles Packer, Jr. who died at age 4. It was on this little grave that Mary Williams Stowell, a close friend of the family, placed wild flowers each Spring.

In recent years, the Packer lot became a pasture and the gravestones were trampled into the ground. In the Summer of 1956, however, the stones were raised at our suggestion and a

temporary enclosure built around them. It is sincerely hoped that in the future some permanent protection may be provided for the grave of Leyden's "pioneer intellectual, encourager of art, and first portrait subject of Henry Kirke Brown."

Far down the Old County Road is a "lost graveyard" where stand the stones of the early Bliss settlers of Leyden. The stone of Deacon Daniel Bliss bears the following inscription: Dan'l Bliss, d. Jan. 27, 1800, aged 77. Below is this cheering epitaph:

"Stranger see as you pass by
As you are now, so once was I.
As I was once, so you must be:
Prepare for Death and follow me."

This epitaph, interestingly enough, is almost identical with the epitaph of Elizabeth Saver'y on "Burial Hill" in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Here again, Leyden reveals its ties with the Pilgrims and early Pilgrim settlement.

The Bliss burying ground has other interesting aspects besides its Pilgrim connections. It may be the site of the mysterious "disappearing graveyard." On April 7, 1788 the town records report that "3 pieces of ground have been laid out for the purpose that the inhabitants of the District may with convenience bury their dead." Two of these lots we know became the Beaver Meadow and West Leyden cemeteries. The third lot is described as part of "lot 42 owned by Job Wright containing half an acre, east of the road that goes across said lot, seven rods in width and eleven rods in length fronting the highway." Such a public burial ground east of the road does not exist — unless the Bliss stones east of the road in a hidden tangle, mark the abandoned public site of Job Wright's "buryhill."

CONCLUSION

Now that we have come to the end of this history, we review briefly the overall Leyden picture as it has been portrayed. First, we traced the early Leyden "Mayflower" settlements and told of their destruction by the Indians. Following the French and Indian wars, we described the second settlement period and the slow growth of the town. During the post-Revolutionary period, the rapid growth of Leyden was recorded, till, with the fall of William Dorril and the establishment of the church, the peak population period was described. Between 1800 and 1815, we told of Leyden's "Golden Age" when farms prospered, mills

hummed and two of Leyden's outstanding men — Henry Kirke Brown and John L. Riddell — were born.

With the introduction of the American industrial age and the "Westward, Ho!" movement, we showed how Leyden mills began to close, roads deteriorate and population decline. But we pointed out that despite the material decline in the post-Civil War era, a cultural trend was in evidence and that this was manifest through the establishment of the library, reorganization of the church and introduction of higher institutions of learning.

We have emphasized in particular the cultural and material movement which has taken place in a growing Leyden since World War II — evidenced by the building up of old farms, reconstruction and restoration of pioneer Leyden homes, erection of new schools, improvement of roads, and most interesting of all, the building of new homes on old colonial foundations. From a cultural point of view, we have underlined the introduction of summer clubs and camps, the increased number of Leyden artists, the study of nature and development of the "Church Woods" plan as significant in the Leyden post-war upsurge.

Looking ahead at this Sesquicentennial time, it is hoped that the people of Leyden, mindful of the town's great natural heritage will do all in their power to preserve that heritage. Leyden can be a sanctuary not only for people of many nationalities, but for all wild life as well. Important as are fields and pastures to the farmer, may these never encroach on or destroy the basic natural beauty of Leyden's countryside.

The things of the spirit — the birds, wild flowers, the woodland ferns, the Canadian violet on a sunny hillside, the sweet-briar pasture rose, the tall regenerate pine — these are beauties which we can never create and are food as vital to growth as bread. Without them we never truly live.

Leyden retains a special aura for those who have lived here in days gone by. One native son, a direct descendant of William Bradford, remarked from a distant city where the circumstances of life had taken him: "If ever I go anywhere, it will be to Leyden." Many Leyden devotees have carried native plants and flowers half way across the country to put them in far-off gardens. Even trees from Leyden's woods have been transplanted hundreds of miles away.

On the old Alexander Road at a sharp bend in the highway, a huge American Elm, now over 200 years old, has witnessed the growth and struggles of Leyden since its earliest inception.

Not long ago, there was talk of cutting this tree because one of its limbs impeded traffic. But the tree has been spared, and today the traffic goes around it. So here, the law of diminishing returns thus far has not triumphed.

In the years to come, we hope that Leyden's material and cultural rebirth will give courage to other New England hill towns whose histories closely parallel hers. Perhaps someday, what now seems like a fantastic dream may be realized, and tall "Mayflower" towers atop Leyden's hills will "broadcast" a steady stream of Church Woods fare for all "who have ears to hear."

As the world teeters on the brink of a materialistic abyss, there cannot be too much emphasis on the spiritual counter-balance. To all of us who love the hills, Leyden — with its birds, its flowers, its "Church Woods" — stands as a symbol of that counter-balance, of God in the high places.

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About the Compilers of this Book

(By John Bogart)

Arms, Masha E., to Leyden, 1945 from Washington, D. C. A direct descendant of Leif Eriksen, early Norwegian explorer. Mrs. Arms has won distinction, particularly in the field of portrait photography and is a pioneer in the miniature field. The children of such prominent persons as Robert Frost, Bret Harte, Jr., Aldous Huxley and Marquis Childs have posed for her camera. Mrs. Arms has reproduced, photographically, a number of the George Fuller and Henry Kirke Brown paintings. While a faculty member of the King-Smith Studio School & Playhouse in Washington, she exhibited her work in Alexandria, Va., and at the Mayflower Hotel. Locally, she has shown her photographs in such public places as the Jones Library, Amherst; the Hampshire Bookshop, Northampton and the Greenfield Public Library. In 1958, she exhibited at her own studio in Leyden. Within the past three years she has expressed her love of nature in delicate pastel drawings wherein imagination and originality are dominant characteristics. In 1959, she was chosen a member of the committee to arrange the Leyden Sesquicentennial art show, and served as general chairman of the celebration.

Arms, William T., a direct descendant of the Falls Fight soldiers: Benjamin Waite, Godfrey Nims, Eliezer Hawks, John Munn, William Smead and William Armes; also related to the Leyden families of Sheldon, Severance and Stebbins. A direct descendant of Anneke Jans, early Dutch settler from Leiden, Holland; and a collateral descendant of Royall Tyler, American author of the Leyden area.

Mr. Arms, an alumnus of Williams College, was born in Deerfield, Massachusetts in 1904. He is the son of Winthrop Tyler and Jennie (Chapin) Arms.

During World War II, he covered Axis radio propaganda for the FBIS and wrote over 300 analytical articles for the Christian Science Monitor and the New York Times. These articles are now a part of a special collection in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton.

Since World War II, Mr. Arms has been active in historic research, involving subjects on both the east and west coasts. In 1956, he brought to light and, in published works, proved probable the legend that the guns at Bunker Hill were heard

100 miles inland. Recently, he has written numerous historic articles including the story of the controversial Culdee monks. He also has written a number of plays. Outstanding, is his "Great God Smith," an historic drama based on life in the Deerfield Valley during the early 1920's.

In 1957, with Mrs. Arms, he originated the Leyden "Church Woods" plan, introduced throughout New England by the Associated Press; and nation-wide, through Nature Magazine. In Europe, this plan was publicly recognized in the Bulletin of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, published in Belgium.

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